

## **A Comeback Story**

Christine Smith | Center for State Fiscal Reform



Fortune is changing in the state of Michigan following decades of extreme economic adversity, from the rapid downturn in the auto industry to the downward population spiral in Detroit. Governor Rick Snyder delivered his last State of the State address in an optimistic tone, emphasizing how several substantive policy changes embraced by the governor have sparked dramatic economic improvement in the state.

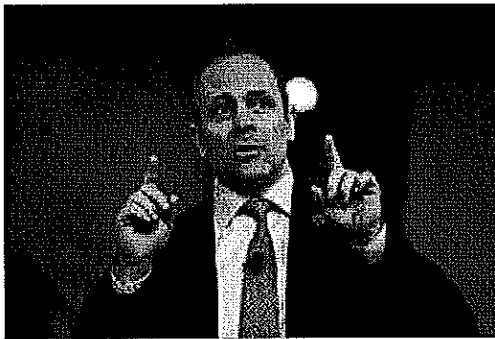
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## **State of the State Response: KY**

### **Governor Bevin Commits to Tax and Pension Reform**

Christine Smith | Center for State Fiscal Reform



The governor stressed the need to “get the state’s financial house in order” by thinking strategically about what government dollars should and should not be funding with a laser- sharp focus on “2PIE” (protection, infrastructure, and education). Pension reform was another major component of Bevin’s address, declaring that “this year they will be funded in their entirety for the first time in the history of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.”

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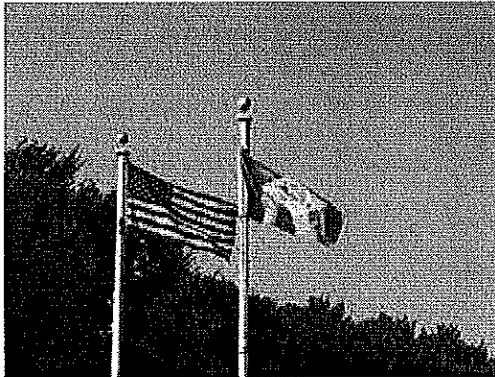
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## **Online Sales Tax**

### **Don't Let States Put Their Sales Tax on Delaware Businesses**

Jonathan Williams | Center for State Fiscal Reform | *Delaware Online*



In an effort to boost revenue, some state policymakers in other states are looking to reach outside of their borders and force Delaware-based businesses to serve as their tax collectors. This would apply to Delaware businesses that simply sell products to out-of-state residents over the Internet. This should be concerning news to every resident and business owner = 2 especially in no-sales-tax states.

[Read Article](#)

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## The Williams Report

### **Williams Report February Update**

Bob Williams | Senior Scholar, Center for State Fiscal Reform



ALEC tax scholar Bob Williams highlights important articles dealing with the budget and pensions in the states, covering January and the early part of February.

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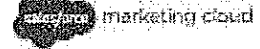
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## Communications and Technology Task Force 65-Day Notice

Thank you for being a member of the Task Force on Communications & Technology. I am writing to inform you of some upcoming deadlines for the ALEC Spring Task Force Summit in Grand Rapids, Michigan on April 27, 2018.

I am working on the agenda right now. I have invited FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr to speak at the Task Force meeting. We will have a discussion regarding the Supreme Court case of *South Dakota v. Wayfair*, which is seeking to overturn the *Quill* standard of physical presence for sales tax purposes. See below for some important dates related to our meeting:

- **March 13, 2018** – 45-Day Policy Submission Deadline. If you would like to introduce new model policy please send me the draft language by that deadline.
- **March 28, 2018** – 30-Day Notice Published. This will contain a draft of the Task Force Meeting Agendas and model policies scheduled for consideration and review at the Task Force Meeting.
- **April 6, 2018** – Early Bird Registration and Housing Deadline
- **April 27, 2018** – Task Force Meeting

To vote on these model policies and engage in the important policy discussions, [register for the ALEC Spring Task Force Summit here!](#)



Feel free to reach out to me for any questions, and I look forward to seeing you in Grand Rapids!

Regards,


Jonathon Paul Hauenschild, J.D.  
Director, Task Force on Communications & Technology

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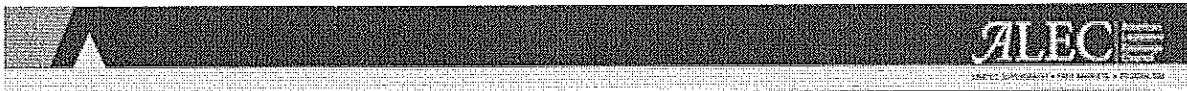
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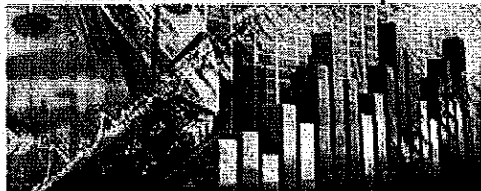
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## New Publication

### **ALEC Releases *State Tax Cut Roundup* for 2017 Legislative Session**

Center for State Fiscal Reform

#### **State Tax Cut Roundup**



2017 Legislative Session

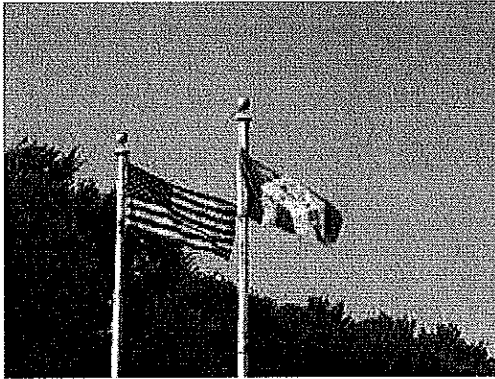
The Center for State Fiscal Reform released the 2017 edition of the *State Tax Cut Roundup*. The report details the efforts of the nine qualifying states that enacted pro-growth tax and budget reform during the 2017 legislative session.

[Read Report](#)

## Online Sales Tax

### **Don't Let States Put Their Sales Tax on Delaware Businesses**

Jonathan Williams | Center for State Fiscal Reform | *Delaware Online*



In an effort to boost revenue, some state policymakers in other states are looking to reach outside of their borders and force Delaware-based businesses to serve as their tax collectors. This would apply to Delaware businesses that simply sell products to out-of-state residents over the Internet. This should be concerning news to every resident and business owner – especially in no-sales-tax states.

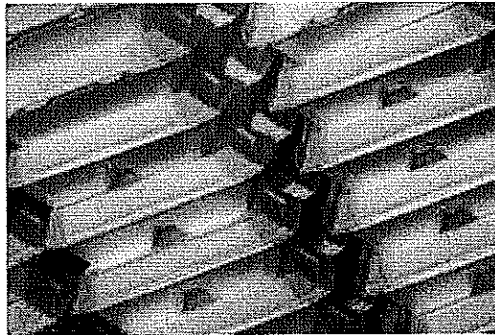
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## Environment and Innovation

### **Bad Container Policies Make Takeout, Shopping More Expensive**

Grant Kidwell | Energy, Environment and Agriculture



Whether it be a plastic bag, styrofoam container, or a cardboard pizza box, having a simple, inexpensive, lightweight container to carry meals in is what makes takeout possible. These are also essential for transporting groceries or any of the other items people buy. Taxes or fees on auxiliary containers, as well as outright bans, are regressive and impact lower-income households the most.

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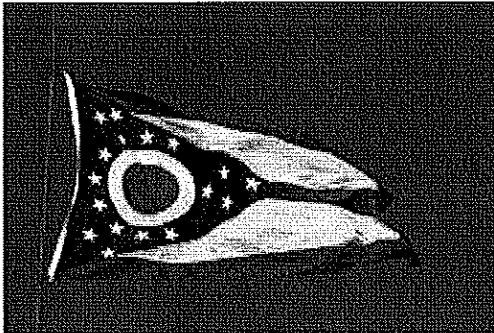
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## State of the State Analysis

### **State of the State: Center for State Fiscal Reform Analyzes Ohio and Oregon**

Joel Griffith and Elliot Young | Center for State Fiscal Reform



The Center for State Fiscal Reform continues its in-depth analyses of State of the State addresses from across the nation. The center is focused on highlighting both strong and weak tax policies outlined in the speeches, and their effects on the specific states. New this week are the analyses of [Ohio](#) and [Oregon](#). To see all the responses so far, follow the link below.

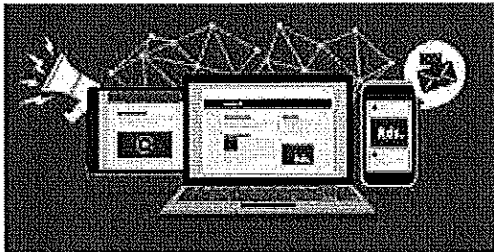
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## Communication and Technology

### Private Sector Spurring Tech Companies to Change Advertising Practices

Jonathon Hauenschild | Communication and Technology



= A Technology companies will respond in more immediate fashion to the prospective loss of revenue than to the threat of government action. In other words, the private sector is far more effective at driving change than federal or state governments.

[Read Article](#)

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## ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

### Turning West Virginia Around

Senator Patricia Rucker | WV-16



This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce **West Virginia State Senator Patricia Rucker**. Senator Rucker is a first-generation Venezuelan-American and outspoken proponent of limited government policies. Rucker believes that the state government is "too big with excessive and burdensome regulation. We need to scale it back to a more reasonable size to allow our economy to grow."

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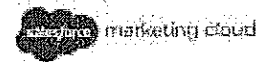


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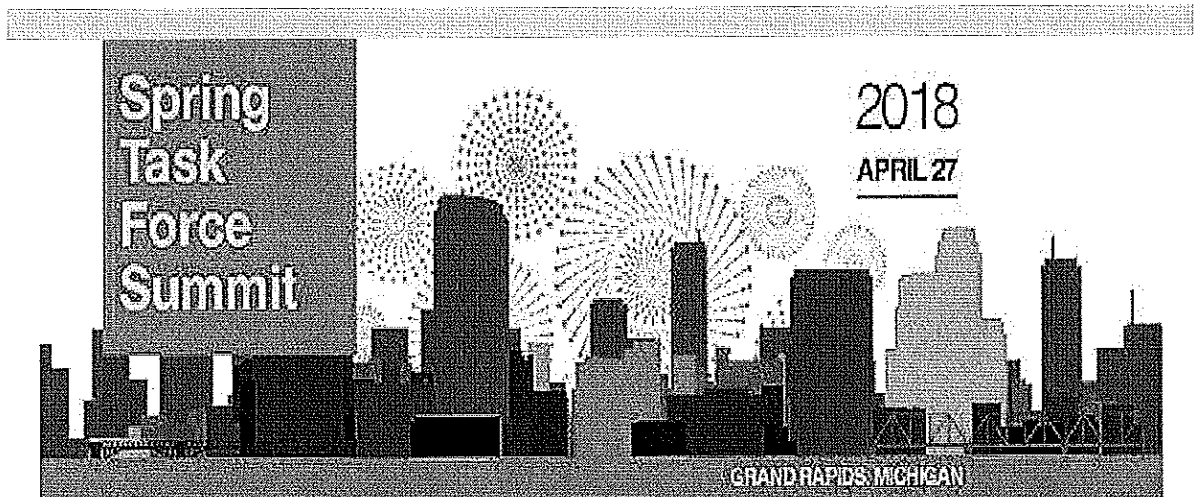
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## **Policy Spotlight: Civil Justice Task Force**

The Task Force on Civil Justice is teaming up with the Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development Task Force to host a subcommittee to create a state model Administrative Procedures Act that would discourage over-regulation and provide some legislative oversight in the executive rule-making process.

Following the Subcommittee meeting, we are arranging for an engaging working lunch followed by a Task Force Agenda ripe with topics of interest to civil justice advocates, from liability considerations for autonomous vehicles to liability for drug innovators when courts place responsibility on them for generic drugs they never manufactured. Plan to join us on Friday morning, April 27th!

## **Have you registered for the ALEC 2018 Spring Task Force Summit?**

**When:** April 27, 2018

**Where:** The Amway Grand Plaza  
Grand Rapids, MI

**Early Bird Deadline:** April 6, 2018

>> REGISTER NOW



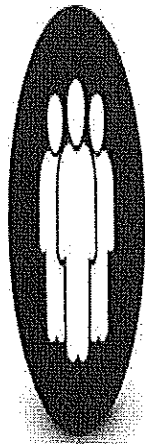
## Make your reservation today at the Amway Grand Plaza

While in Grand Rapids, discover the historic charm of the Amway Grand Plaza.

Book now through **April 6, 2018\*** at the ALEC rate of **\$179 per night.**

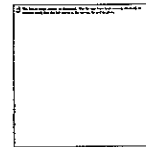
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### Members - Dates to Remember:

- **March 13, 2018** – 45-Day Policy Submission Deadline to introduce new model policy



### Agenda at a Glance

#### Thursday, April 26

9:00 PM - 11:00 PM: Late Night Reception

#### Friday, April 27

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Task Force Subcommittees

11:00 AM - 11:50 AM: Workshop

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM: Luncheons



- **March 28, 2018 – 30-Day Notice**  
Published- A draft of the Task  
Force Meeting Agendas and  
model policies scheduled for  
consideration and review at the  
Task Force Meeting

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Task Force  
Meetings

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM: Michigan Welcome  
Reception

\*Agenda is subject to change

- **April 6, 2018 – Early Bird**  
Registration and Housing  
Deadline
- **April 27, 2018– Spring Task**  
Force Summit in Grand Rapids,  
MI

## Agenda

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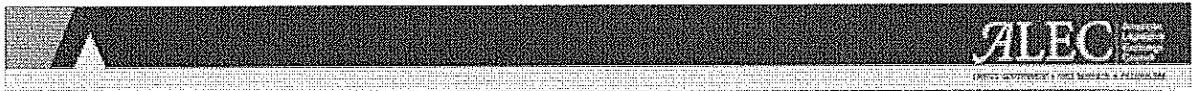
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**Center to Restore the Balance of Government**  
February 27, 2018



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Chairman's Corner

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### **A Message from Iowa House Speaker and Chair of the ALEC Center to Restore the Balance of Government Linda Upmeyer**

= A Federalism is the linchpin of America's system of governance. It is woven so seamlessly into the fabric of our nation that it escapes notice until the delicate balance between local, state and national governance is disrupted. In spite of its impact on almost every aspect of our lives, federalism is often treated as a lofty concept, rather than a common sense system that employs the simple logic that real solutions are found in the fifty laboratories of democracy, not one-size fits all federal government policies that disregard regional differences and local community needs.

When I launched the ALEC Center to Restore the Balance of Government, I pledged that the Center would provide practical tools to state lawmakers to strengthen federalism within their states and to recognize federal encroachment into areas better left to state control. To further that goal, the Center Newsletter will launch a new series called the **Chairman's Corner**, which will be a regular segment authored by a state lawmaker highlighting a specific state sovereignty topic taking place in the legislator's state. Exposing the real world challenges that state lawmakers face every day will provide pragmatic best practices for some of our legislator readers and will help to make federalism come

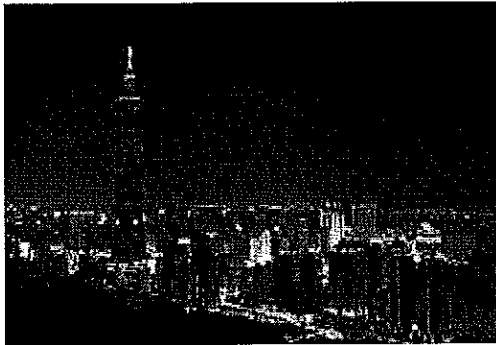
alive for the non-legislators in the Newsletter's audience who do not live them every day. The first topic in the series is **"Health Care and the Individual Insurance Market"** 0

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## International Democracy

### **Taiwan Offers a Glimmer of Hope for Democracy**

Karla Jones | Federalism and International Relations Task Force



After many decades of forward progress, rule of law and democratic norms are in a global free fall. Countries that were once solid members of the democratic community such as Turkey, Venezuela, Poland and the Philippines have slid toward authoritarian rule imposing media restrictions, weakening their judiciaries and even dissolving legislative chambers.

Against this bleak backdrop, Taiwan's tenacious grasp on freedom despite challenges from its cross-strait neighbor is remarkable and emblematic of this island democracy's power and appeal. **Read more about this democratic success story.**

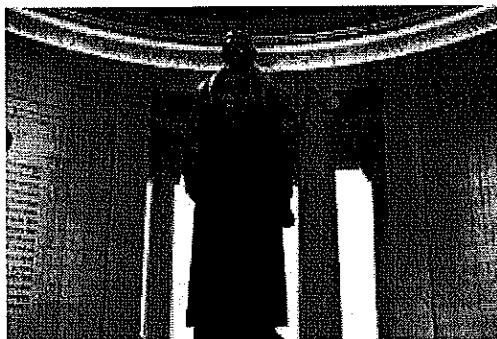
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## Focus on Federalism

### **2018: The Year of the States**

Karla Jones | Federalism and International Relations Task Force



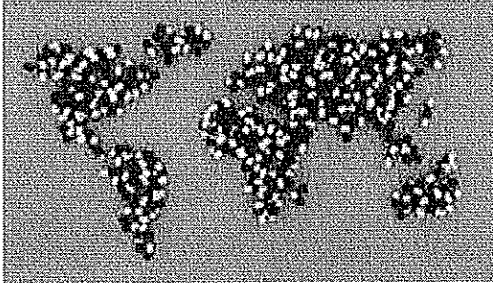
Conventional wisdom holds that 2018 is the "Year of the Woman." There is no doubt that women have and will continue to figure prominently this year, however I predict that we will also look back on 2018 as **the year of the states.**

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Intellectual Property Update  
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## The Global Innovation Policy Center Releases the Sixth Edition of the *International IP Index*

Karla Jones | Federalism and International Relations Task Force



Enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, intellectual property rights are part of America's constitutional heritage. Millions of American jobs owe their existence to the innovation economy and IP-intensive industries tend to offer higher wages than other industries. With globalization, strong domestic IP rights protections are no longer sufficient -- America's economic partners also need to uphold similarly robust IP protection and enforcement standards. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's *International Intellectual Property Index* is an invaluable contribution because it tracks global adherence to IP norms and articulates the economic benefits enjoyed by countries that enforce strong IP protections. Read more [here](#).

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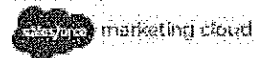


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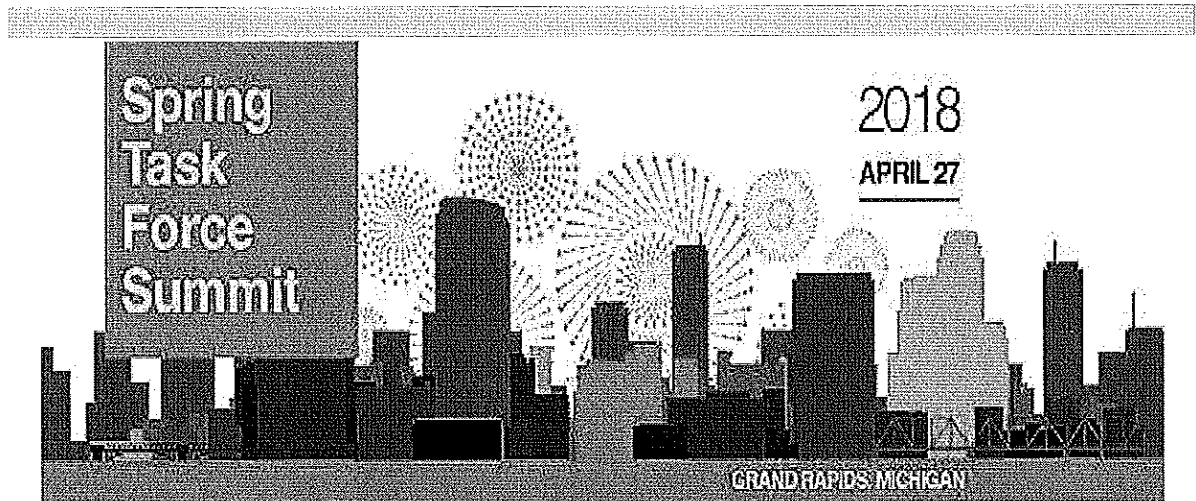
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## **Have you registered for the ALEC 2018 Spring Task Force Summit?**

**When:** April 27, 2018

**Where:** The Amway Grand Plaza  
Grand Rapids, MI

**Early Bird Deadline:** April 6, 2018



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## **Are you an ALEC Legislative Member?**

Take advantage of our reimbursement program to help offset the cost of your attendance to the Spring Task Force Summit. One of the benefits of being an ALEC member is the opportunity to be reimbursed for your registration, hotel and travel expenses to our conferences. Reimbursement varies by state and by meeting.

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For more information on how to apply or to contribute to the State Reimbursement program please contact Wes Fisher at [wfisher@alec.org](mailto:wfisher@alec.org) or (571) 482-5015.

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## Policy Spotlight: Criminal Justice Task Force



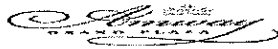
Did you catch the Facebook Live with ALEC Criminal Justice Task Force Director, Ronnie Lampard, highlighting the new state factor on overcriminalization and mens rea reform?

While the Criminal Justice Task Force agenda is still being finalized for the Spring Task Force Summit, a few of the topics to be discussed include new information about **criminal justice data** and **prisoner reentry**. Links to an initial agenda and any proposed model policies, resolutions, or statements of principles under consideration will be sent to Task Force members in advance of the meeting.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Grand Rapids, MI at the Spring Task Force Summit! Mark your calendar for **March 13** as it is the deadline to submit any proposed model policy, resolution or statement of principles be considered at the Spring Task Force Summit.

<p>Full Conference Agenda</p>
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## Make your reservation today at the Amway Grand Plaza

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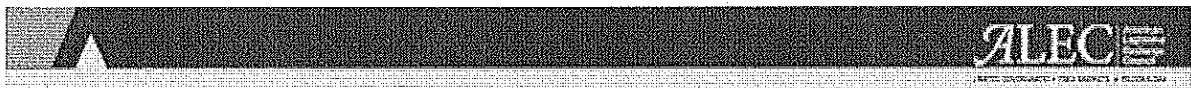


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**ALEC Digital Exchange: March 1, 2018**



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## ALEC In Action

### ALEC Joins Rally for Mark Janus at U.S. Supreme Court

Robert Ordway | Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development



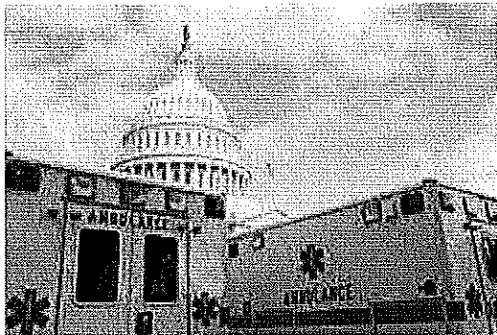
ALEC Staff joined hundreds of workers, teachers, policy professionals and many others outside the United States Supreme Court to rally in support of Mark Janus in his worker freedom case being heard by the court. Some see this case as an opportunity to expand worker freedom through choice, making it a potentially landmark decision in labor reform. To learn more about the *Janus* case and the judicial history of worker freedom, follow the link below.

[Read Article](#)

## Legislator Voices

### **Health Care and the Individual Insurance Market**

Speaker Linda Upmeyer | Iowa State Legislature



Iowa once had a stable and affordable health insurance market. Premiums were low, consumers had several choices, and our uninsured rate was lower than the national average. Following the enactment of Obamacare and its mandates, Iowa's market has collapsed. Iowa's unfortunate story is similar to many other states. It is time for states to act and do what they can to provide their citizens with affordable and accessible health coverage.

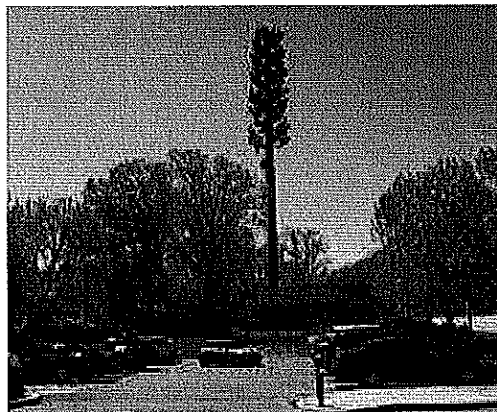
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## Communication and Technology

### **FCC Announces Wireless Broadband Federal Review and Approval Modernizations**

Jonathon Hauenschild | Communication and Technology



Is it possible for government to spur infrastructure spending and growth without spending a dime? That is what the Federal Communications Commission plans to do, according to a proposal discussed recently by Commissioner Carr. In a nutshell, the proposal would speed the process for deploying the next generation of broadband and mobile technology, and reducing both time and cost of implementation.

[Read Article](#)

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## State of the State Analysis

## State of the State: Center for State Fiscal Reform Looks Eastward

Thurston Powers | Center for State Fiscal Reform



The Center for State Fiscal Reform continues its in-depth analyses of State of the State addresses from across the nation. The center is focused on highlighting both strong and weak fiscal policies outlined in the speeches, and their effects on the specific states. New this week are the analyses of eastern seaboard states **Virginia, Maryland and Massachusetts**. To see all the responses so far, follow the link below.

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## ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

### A Standard Bearer for Tax Reform in North Carolina

Representative Jason Saine | NC-97



This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce **North Carolina Representative Jason Saine**. Representative Saine also serves as the 2018 National Chairman of the American Legislative Exchange Council. Saine has been a driving force behind tax reform in his home state, and is proud of the results, saying, "We've seen surplus year after year while cutting taxes and keeping spending in line with the growth of our state economy."

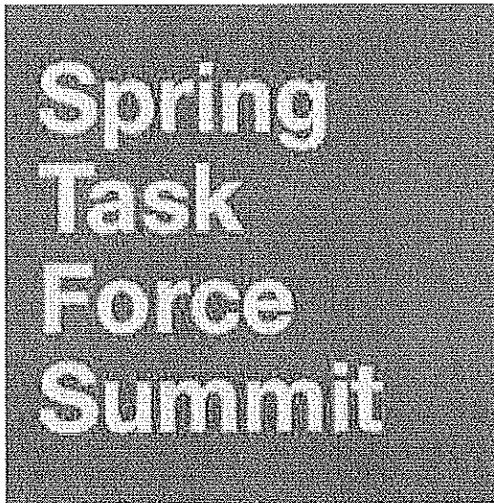
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STFS 2018

**Register Now for the Spring Task Force Summit**



Early Bird registration is currently open for the 2018 Spring Task Force Summit. The summit will take place on **April 27, 2018 in Grand Rapids, MI**. Click the link below to get more information and register for the conference.

[Register Here](#)



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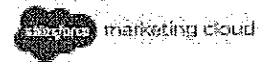


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## Welfare Reform Works

Wisconsin continues to be a national innovator when it comes to welfare reform. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) will soon add his signature to a host of nine bills that build on previous reforms aimed at helping to move more Wisconsinites from government dependency to self-sufficiency.

The "Wisconsin Works for Everyone" reform initiative, which has been spearheaded by Walker since he first announced the plan more than a year ago, mimics similar reforms passed by former Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson (R). Throughout Thompson's tenure (1987–2001), 800,000 net jobs were created in Wisconsin, and there was a 93 percent reduction in the state's welfare rolls. Thompson's reforms were so successful that they were

later used by President Bill Clinton and congressional Republicans in their revamp of welfare at the national level.

One of the changes the bills would institute is an adjustment to the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as food stamps. If approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the state would require able-bodied food stamp recipients to work or be enrolled in a job training program for at least 30 hours per week, an increase of 10 hours per week compared to current law.

In a USDA press release, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue voiced his support for SNAP innovation to promote work and self-sufficiency. "Long-term dependency has never been part of the American dream. USDA's goal is to move individuals and families from SNAP back to the workforce as the best long-term solution to poverty. Everyone who receives SNAP deserves an opportunity to become self-sufficient and build a productive, independent life."

Another key part of the Wisconsin Works for Everyone plan is Medicaid reform. The state submitted a Section 1115 demonstration waiver in June 2017 to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. If approved by the federal government, the waiver would lead to the creation of monthly premiums and copayments for emergency department visits, subject recipients to drug screenings and offer treatment to those who test positive, and limit benefits to 48 months for those not meeting the state's work requirements.

The Heartland Institute endorses many of the Badger State's reform measures and has been encouraging Wisconsin to make additional changes for years. In January, John Nothdurft, director of government relations, testified in support of the reform bills in a Wisconsin joint committee hearing. Heartland President Tim Huelskamp cited Heartland's assistance in moving these bills forward in a recent press release: "Congratulations to Gov. Walker and the Republican legislature for passing these long-overdue welfare reforms. The Heartland Institute was pleased to assist in their development and plans to promote the adoption of these in the other 49 states."



Wisconsin has long been a leader in welfare reform. In 2015, Wisconsin was given an “A” grade in Heartland’s *Welfare Reform Report Card*, and the additional changes offered as part of the Wisconsin Works for Everyone plan would help it remain one of the most innovative and reform-minded states in the country.

In the *Ten State Solutions to Emerging Issues* booklet, experts at The Heartland Institute provide lawmakers interested in fixing their welfare programs with several key policy reforms that have been proven to improve state budgets and help people break the government-created cycle of dependency and poverty. Solutions include work requirements, consolidating redundant agencies, eliminating fraud and abuse, and applying for 1115 demonstration waivers to give states flexibility in administering Medicaid.

## What We're Working On

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### Education

Study Shows Nearly Half of Florida’s ESA Parents Are Using Funds to Customize Their Child’s Education

In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson writes about a new study from EdChoice, titled *Personalizing Education: How Florida Families Use Education Savings Accounts*. The study reveals 42 percent of families participating in Florida’s Gardiner Scholarship Program used their ESA funds to customize their child’s education during the 2015–16 school year. These findings are important because they show parents are using the Gardiner ESA as intended, utilizing a variety of options to come up with an educational program that meets the unique educational needs of their children.

### Energy & Environment

EPA Finds Greenhouse-Gas Emissions Continue to Decline While Oil, Natural Gas Production Increase

In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson writes about EPA’s 2018 Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHGI), which revealed total gross greenhouse-gas emissions (GHG) in the United States decreased by 2 percent between

2015 and 2016. In 2007, GHG emissions were 15.6 percent above 1990 levels, which is the GHGI baseline. Now, GHG emissions are just 2.6 percent above 1990 levels, 11.6 percent below 2005 levels. The report also goes on to note combined methane emissions from oil and natural gas systems have declined by 1.5 percent from 2015 to 2016, and by a total of 14.7 percent since 1990. From natural gas systems alone, the decrease in methane emissions is 16.3 percent since 1990.

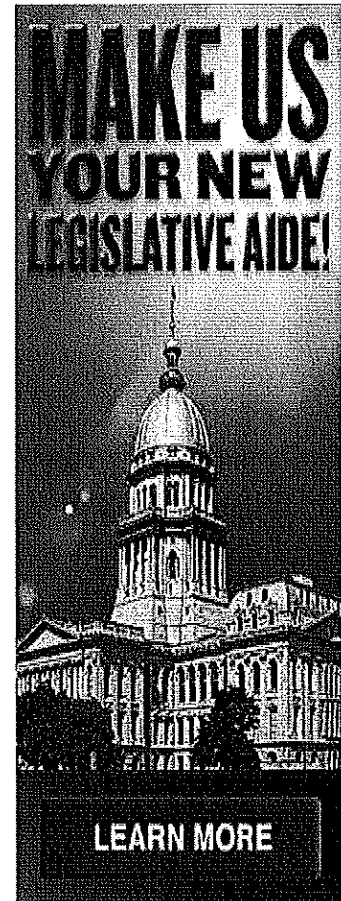
### Health Care

**Trump Administration Throws Lifeline to Obamacare Victims**  
 State Government Relations Manager Charlie Katebi examines a new proposal by the Trump administration to expand access to affordable health plans known as short-term insurance in a recent column in *The Hill*. Katebi wrote, "The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) proposed new rules to offer consumers an expanded array of affordable health coverage options. The newly proposed rules would extend the allowable duration of health plans known as short-term insurance from three months to 12 months. = 2 The vast majority of the customers lining up to buy these new policies will likely be among the tens of millions of individuals who cannot afford Obamacare's sky-high premiums and are currently uninsured." 3 0

### Budget & Tax

**Washington State Seeks to Reform Civil Asset Forfeiture Laws**  
 In this *Research & Commentary*, Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans discusses a positive development in Washington State regarding civil asset forfeiture. Currently, Washington has a "D-" grade on its civil asset forfeiture laws, as analyzed by the Institute for Justice. Three bills being considered in the state's legislature would raise the standard of proof required for seizure, deposit proceeds from seized property into a public education fund, and place the burden of proof on the seizing agency. Glans concluded, "Assets should be seized only for criminal reasons, and law enforcement should not have incentives to seize any more property than is necessary and justified. Although incorporating these reforms into one bill would be preferable, each of these bills would take a positive step toward limiting the government's incentive to seize."

**From Our Free-Market Friends**  
 City Pension Data Update



Truth in Accounting, a government finance watchdog group, has updated its municipal pension database that contains important information about the largest public pension systems in the country. According to Truth in Accounting, the worst funded pension plans in the three largest cities are the New York City Fire Department Pension Fund (57 percent funded), Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (68 percent funded), and Chicago Municipal Employees' Annuity and Benefit Fund (19 percent funded).



In the February issue of *School Reform News*, Ashley Bateman reports on Connecticut's underfunded government pension system, which is the worst in the nation. The "Unaccountable and Unaffordable" study, released by ALEC in December 2017, finds the state has a 19.7 percent funding ratio and sets retiree benefits through collective bargaining.

Environment & Climate  
News

Budget & Tax News

Health Care News

	<b>The Heartland Institute</b>	<b>Our Websites</b>
	The Heartland Institute, founded in 1984, is a national non-profit organization dedicated to discovering, developing, and promoting free-market solutions to economic and social problems.	<a href="#">The Heartland Institute</a> <a href="#">PolicyBot</a> <a href="#">The Freedom Pub</a> <a href="#">The Parent Trigger</a> <a href="#">Climate Conference</a>

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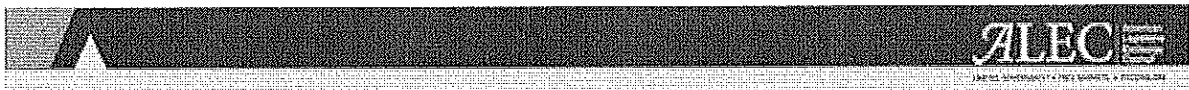
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Dear Legislators,

Please read this email.

During the mid-terms (and every election year), it's never too early to start thinking about what you've heard me call "silly season"—that time in an election cycle when any claim made on the internet or by your opposition must be true. Often, while on the campaign trail legislators are asked loaded questions, are the targets of online and direct-mail attacks, or any number of other charges and accusations that just don't make sense.

Because of the political and policy landscape, and because free-market control of state legislatures and redistricting hangs in the balance, we expect 2018 to be a particularly contentious and vitriolic campaign season. Activists from San Francisco, New York, Madison and elsewhere will challenge your support for the free-market.

When managing and responding to these attacks, it is important to remember your true north—what you stand for... and, remember what you know to be true about the people and organizations with whom you affiliate.

The ALEC public affairs team is always available to help you respond to inquiries

and put together a helpful [talking points document](#) for your use. The linked talking points provide helpful responses should you receive questions. But also, remember the answer is quite simple: If asked, talk about your most recent task force experience. What did you do? What was it like? What was discussed? What positive policy idea that would help the people of your state was discussed?

If you have additional questions, please reach out to Bill Meierling at [WMeierling@alec.org](mailto:WMeierling@alec.org).

**Over the past several years, ALEC welcomed hundreds of journalists to its meetings and conducted thousands of interviews. One must actively avoid information about ALEC to call it dark and secretive. Further, all model policy, both draft and approved are posted on the [ALEC website](#).**

As you know, ALEC is a nonpartisan, voluntary membership organization. Every legislator and organization is welcome to join and participate in the exchange of limited government, free market and federalism focused ideas. More voices and perspectives make ALEC stronger and make our policies better. In fact, **one of the principal reasons legislators say they trust ALEC policy is because it is more deeply vetted and more fully debated before it becomes a model.**

Even though silly season is on the horizon, you have the tools to succeed and ALEC will be with you along the way. Speak your truth, stand up for what you believe in and lean on the ALEC staff whenever you have questions.

Sincerely,  
= A  
Lisa B. Nelson

Chief Executive Officer  
American Legislative Exchange Council

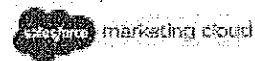
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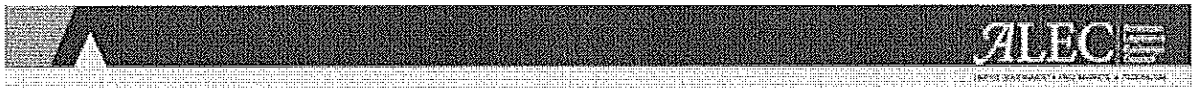


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Dear members,

As ALEC celebrates its 45th anniversary this year, I have the opportunity to reflect on the most pressing issues facing business today and how there is now a new context for your government relations and shareholder engagement strategy. You must be agile and ready to adapt.

Since Citizens United activists have aimed to change corporations rather than laws in order to reach what they call a fairer society. And while many shareholder proposals yield positive change for companies and the American people—for instance moves to increase board diversity or make it a corporate priority to hire veterans, the elderly or people with criminal records.

We all know that **not all shareholder proposals are created equal**. In many cases, these proposals—if instituted—would fundamentally impact a company's ability to operate and grow. Seemingly unrelated proposals as outlined below have been coordinated to place a company in disarray or to force change. Shareholder groups also coordinate with other outside groups to create public pressure.

**Last year, McDonald's received seven shareholder resolutions** from groups on issues ranging from political spending to the \$15-minimum wage to the use of

antibiotics in the chicken it sources. All seven shareholder resolutions (brought by the Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, Texas; Harrington Investments; Thomas August; and others) were coordinated through Proxy Preview, a project of As You Sow. At the same time as McDonald's received these shareholder resolutions, progressive activist groups ran campaigns targeting the company's public relations and marketing efforts: Color of Change on wages and the Public Interest Research Group and the Fund for the Public Interest on antibiotics in chicken. All claim victory for the change in McDonald's policy.

**Why this matters:** As an individual you might not want antibiotics in your chicken, but what if the shareholder resolution your company received inhibited your ability to sell what you sell, make what you make, or decide how and to whom you give political contributions. **In 2015, Proxy Preview coordinated 421 shareholder resolutions against 267 companies—26 percent of the resolutions were about disclosure of political spending.** 19 resolutions demanded companies end their relationship with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Federation of Independent Business and/or ALEC.

As a government relations professional, this matters to you. It's up to you to ensure your executives are briefed about the orchestration of brand disruption campaigns.

If you are interested in learning what Proxy Preview has in store for your company, I encourage you to join their webinar next Thursday March 8, from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST. You can sign up at: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5016521090349259778>.

**Activist shareholder resolutions rarely pass or become company policy.**

**But, they have ~~5~~ 0 over time—dramatically changed the corporate and investor landscape.** There is no better indicator of the shift than a letter written in January by BlackRock Investment CEO Larry Fink. His firm manages more than \$6 trillion in investments. Fink's annual letters often touch upon "long-term value creation," but it is interesting to note how his definition has changed between 2015 and 2018. In 2015, "long-term value creation" focused on listening to long-term owners/investors in a company to maximize profit. This January, the definition changed to a focus on Environmental, Social and Governance-focused investing practices. In his January 12 letter, Fink noted:

"To prosper over time, every company must not only deliver financial performance, but also show how it makes a positive contribution to society. Companies must benefit all of their stakeholders, including shareholders,



employees, customers, and the communities in which they operate." He continued, "Without a sense of purpose, no company, either public or private, can achieve its full potential...It will remain exposed to activist campaigns that articulate a clearer goal, even if that goal serves only the shortest and narrowest of objectives."

Fink's letter foreshadows a change in focus from your shareholders to someone else's stakeholders.

Less than one month later, on February 7, BlackRock announced a \$10 Billion buyout fund to be led by two former senior executives of the **Canadian Public Sector Pension Fund**.

With all of the vitriol and brinksmanship in the national political discourse, you can surely expect it to spill over into this year's shareholder meetings. Don't let a vocal minority cloud the goals of your business' long-term strategy. Your company knows best how to grow, and part of your strategy is most certainly participation with groups and organizations that share an uncompromising commitment to lower taxes, innovation, free trade, economic security and protecting the long-term interests of hardworking taxpayers.

ALEC closely follows the activist investor landscape. If you have questions or desire an in-depth presentation including steps you can take to mitigate potential challenges, please reach out to me as soon as possible. With shareholder season heating up, we want you to be armed with the best and most actionable information possible.

Sincerely,


Lisa B. Nelson

Chief Executive Officer  
American Legislative Exchange Council

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**Events and Education - March 6, 2018**



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**Register for Spring Task Force Summit Today**

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Early Bird registration is currently open for the 2018 Spring Task Force Summit. The summit will take place on **April 27, 2018 in Grand Rapids, MI**. Click the link below to get more information and register for the conference.

[Register Here](#)

## ALEC in Action

### ALEC Joins Janus Rally at Supreme Court

Robert Ordway | Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development



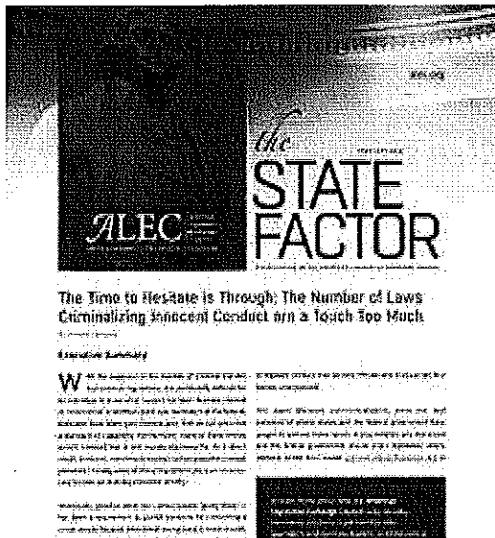
ALEC Staff joined workers, teachers, policy professionals and others outside the United States Supreme Court to rally in support of Mark Janus in his worker freedom case being heard by the court. Some see this case as an opportunity to expand worker freedom through choice, making it a potentially landmark decision in labor reform. To learn more about the history and importance of this issue, read the article linked below.

[Read Article](#)

## Recent Publications

### Stay Current with ALEC Publications

American Legislative Exchange Council



ALEC scholars and directors work to provide you with education on the issues that matter to you. In the last month, ALEC has released two publications: ***The Time to Hesitate is Through: The Number of Laws Criminalizing Innocent Conduct is a Touch Too Much***, which deals with overcriminalization and *mens rea* reform; and the ***2017 State Tax Cut Roundup***, which concerns tax reform at the state level over the past legislative session. To check out all ALEC publications, follow the link below.

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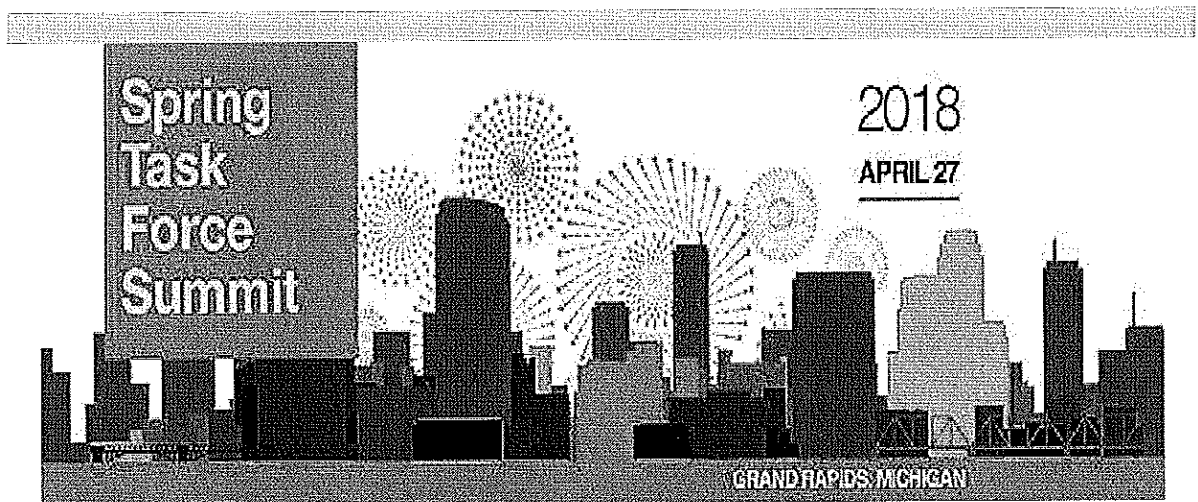
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## **Internet Tax Workshop: Addressing Potential New Burdens on Interstate Commerce and Economic Growth**

Some state policymakers are attempting to resolve their overspending problems by forcing non-resident online retailers located outside of their jurisdiction to ask as tax collection agents for their state. This misguided bid utterly violates the constitutional principles that spur innovation, entrepreneurship, and commerce! ALEC, guided by its principles, members and model policy, opposes this and similar actions. Find out more and provide your insights at the **Internet Tax Workshop: Addressing Potential New Burdens on Interstate Commerce and Economic Growth** on Friday, April 27, 2018 at 11:00 AM.

Join us in Grand Rapids, MI at the Spring Task Force Summit as the task force continues discussions on issues that are effecting your state!

Remember, **March 13**, just a short week away, is the deadline to submit any proposed model policy, resolution or statement of principles to be considered at the Spring Task Force Summit.



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## **ALEC Legislative Members**

### **Take Advantage of ALEC CARE Training**

Want to know what some ALEC Legislative members consider one of the most valuable benefits of membership? Come see a constituent relationship management system that will transform the way you interact with your constituents. Better yet, it's free as a member benefit.

ALEC will host demonstrations Thursday, April 26 and Friday, April 27 at the Spring Task Force Summit.

RSVP to Ashley Varner



## Full Conference Agenda

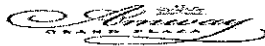
### Have you registered for the ALEC 2018 Spring Task Force Summit?

**When:** April 27, 2018

**Where:** The Amway Grand Plaza  
Grand Rapids, MI

**Early Bird Deadline:** April 6, 2018

**>> REGISTER NOW**



**Make your reservation today at the Amway  
Grand Plaza**

Book now through **April 6, 2018\*** at the ALEC rate of **\$179  
per night.**

*\*based on availability*

**Book Now**

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**Questions?** Contact us at [meetings@alec.org](mailto:meetings@alec.org)

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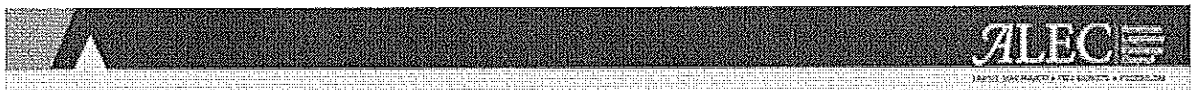
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**ALEC Digital Exchange: March 8, 2018**



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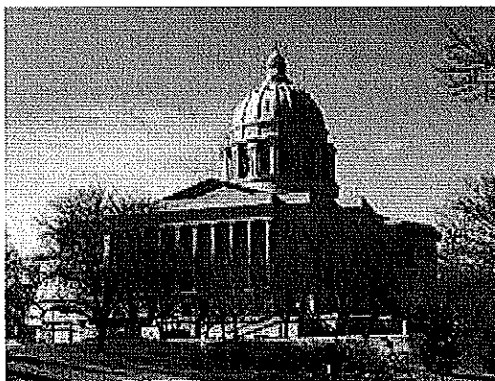
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## ALEC In The News

### North Carolina, Not Kansas, Is the Tax Cut Model

MO Senator Ed Emery and Jonathan Williams | *Kansas City Star*

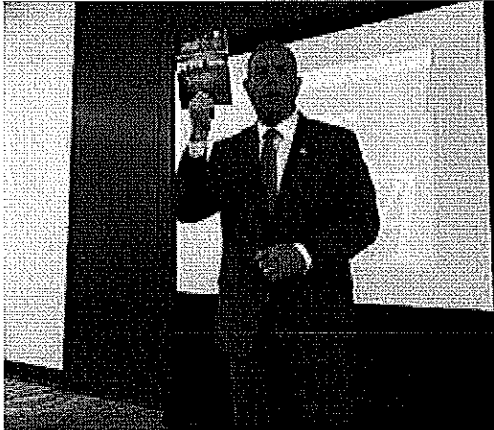


Kansas is the left's favorite red herring to distract attention from major tax reform success stories like North Carolina, Indiana and Wisconsin, to name just a few. There are right and wrong ways to go about tax reform, and the overspending pitfalls from Kansas should be kept in mind. However, North Carolina provides Missouri with a better road map for tax reform that works.

[Read Article](#)

## ALEC In the States

### **Membership Events Energize Members, Grow ALEC**



Over the last week, ALEC Staff have been in the states, working with our members to drive excitement for this year's events and meetings, and to meet legislators who can benefit from membership. **Events in Mississippi generated 33 new members, while Kansas events gained another 5.** ALEC is looking forward to working with these new members in the coming year. If you know someone who would benefit from ALEC membership, follow the link below.

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## ALEC In Action

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### **Center for State Fiscal Reform Goes to New Mexico**

Jonathan Williams | Center for State Fiscal Reform



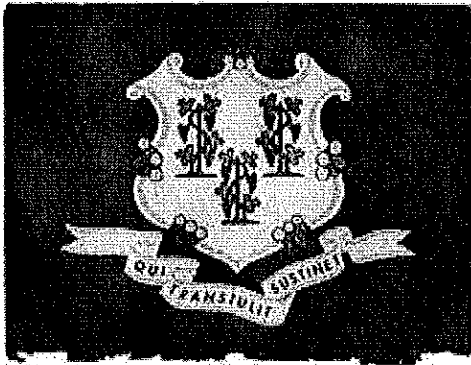
Jonathan Williams of the Center for State Fiscal Reform joined the New Mexico Business Coalition to discuss economic competitiveness and New Mexico's economic outlook. The event was attended by nearly 200 concerned business and community leaders from across the state. You can view photos from the event [here](#) and [here](#).

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## Criminal Justice

### **Connecticut Continues to Seek Improvements to its Asset Forfeiture Process**

Ronald J. Lampard | Criminal Justice



= 9Last year, Connecticut joined a growing list of states that have passed civil asset forfeiture laws to make it more difficult for government agencies to take property from its citizens. In fact, last year Connecticut abolished civil asset forfeiture and replaced it with criminal forfeiture. The law's passage was a crucial victory for property rights. Now, Connecticut is seeking to close any loopholes that may allow the process to continue.

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## ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

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### Looking Out For Small Buisnesses in Maryland

Delgate Kathy Szeliga | MD-7



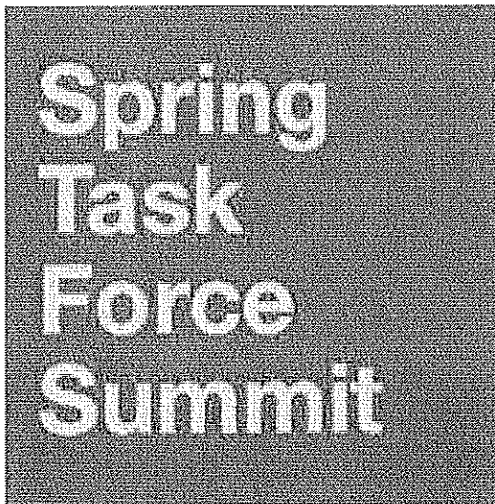
This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce **Maryland Delegate Kathy Szeliga**. Delegate Szeliga is the product of military family, and has operated a general construction contracting business for the last 27 years. Szeliga is wary of big government and unbridled spending, commenting "The ever-growing and overreaching monster of big government is smothering the potential for future generations."

[Read Article](#)

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## STFS 2018

**Register Now for the Spring Task Force Summit**



Early Bird registration is currently open for the 2018 Spring Task Force Summit. The summit will take place on **April 27, 2018 in Grand Rapids, MI**. Click the link below to get more information and register for the conference.

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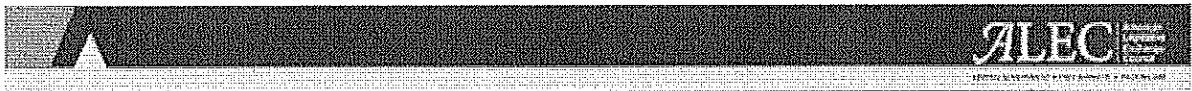


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### **Communications and Technology Update: March 8, 2018**



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Dear Members of the Communications and Technology Task Force,

Greetings!! The past few weeks have been full of communications and technology news. The purpose of this letter is to highlight a few of the policies that have been introduced, highlight a few opportunities for you to get involved in policy discussions, and to remind you that the Spring Task Force Summit is right around the corner. [Register here](#) and make sure to reserve your room at the Amway Grand Plaza!

The FCC just announced plans to streamline the federal historical and environmental review processes for 5G deployment. The Communications and Technology Task Force will be hosting a conference call with FCC staff to discuss this proposal either on Friday, March 16 or sometime the following week. More details will follow as we finalize the plans. In the meantime, though, if you are interested in participating, please email me at [jhauenschild@alec.org](mailto:jhauenschild@alec.org).

The President announced an infrastructure plan that included proposals for rural broadband deployment, the U.S. House voted on a very bad proposal that will weaken law enforcement's ability to investigate and prosecute online sex trafficking,

and so much more. I have included some of the stories below.

Regards,

Jonathon Hauenschild

Director, Task Force on Communications & Technology

---

#### Task Force Opportunities

CAT, along with the Commerce, Insurance, and Economic Development Task Force, is forming a working group for autonomous vehicle (AV) policy. During the States and Nation Policy Summit, AV model policy was introduced and both task forces tabled to work on the wording. If you are interested in participating, please email Michael Slabinski at [mslabinski@alec.org](mailto:mslabinski@alec.org).

The FCC is still looking for state legislators to apply to serve on the Intragovernmental Affairs Committee. The process is straight forward—submit a resume and a statement of interest—and is set forth in a public notice. If you are interested in applying and have any questions, please email me at [jhauenschild@alec.org](mailto:jhauenschild@alec.org).

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#### Stories to Follow

- Yesterday's regulatory schemes will not work for the deployment of tomorrow's wireless broadband networks. The FCC just announced plans to exclude small cells from federal historical and environmental review and to streamline the process for large cell applications.
- Washington state legislators decided to defy the FCC and pass a law preventing wired and wireless broadband providers from engaging in blocking, throttling, or paid prioritization practices. The FCC's Restoring Internet Freedom Order not only repealed the 2015 Open Internet Order, and its classification of the internet as a service subject to common carrier regulation, it also preempted any similar state or local efforts to reinstate the rules.
- The U.S. House passed FOSTA, or the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act. The only problem is that the proposal would



provide a powerful incentive for online platforms not to moderate their content, thus increasing online sex trafficking.

- Thought leaders from the Left are calling for increased regulation of Big Tech and the use of antitrust theories to break up platforms such as Google. Meanwhile, Facebook is launching a tool to help local newspapers attract viewers and subscribers.

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ALEC/FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

## Looking Out For Small Buisnesses in Maryland

Delgate Kathy Szeliga 1 MD-7



This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce **Maryland Delegate Kathy Szeliga**. Delegate Szeliga is the product of military family, and has operated a general construction contracting business for the last 27 years. Szeliga is wary of big government and unbridled spending, commenting "The ever-growing and overreaching monster of big government is smothering the potential for future generations."

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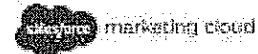


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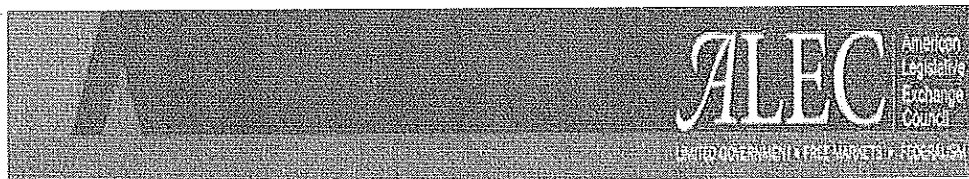
**To:** Rep48

**Subject:** Kirk, Add Your Name: Open Letter to Congress Opposing Sales Tax Collection Across State Lines

Dear Kirk,

Please add your name to the below ALEC coalition letter advising Congress not to allow states to require sales tax collections on businesses that have no physical presence within the respective state.

Such aggressive taxation would require businesses to understand and comply with rates, exemptions, rules, tax holidays and other peculiarities for 12,000 different tax jurisdictions. State lawmakers across the country are urging Congress not to allow such aggressive taxation. Please join the letter today by providing your name here.



= 9

March 12, 2018

Dear Members of Congress,

As state legislators, we oppose the attempts to overturn constitutional precedent safeguarding Congress's essential authority to protect interstate commerce from discriminatory regulation and taxation. As a result, commerce has grown, unfettered between the states. Such a populous and geographically expansive free trade zone is largely responsible for the abundance of wealth and opportunity—unrivaled in history—spread across our nation. Unfortunately, some state policymakers are attempting to resolve their overspending problems to look aggressively beyond their own state lines for tax revenue. This misguided bid to resolve their overspending problems utterly violates the constitutional principles that provide a proving ground for innovation, entrepreneurship and small businesses.

The U.S. Constitution was written to replace the Articles of Confederation in no small part due to the latter's failure to prevent a spiraling interior "war" of states who could assert tax and regulatory authority outside their borders and thereby create fiefdoms for themselves. The Constitution's Commerce Clause and subsequent jurisprudence make clear that taxing power must be limited by state borders. Businesses lacking a "substantial nexus" or link to a state through a "physical presence" such as offices, employees, or property, cannot be forced to act as tax collection agents for that state (*Quill Corp v North Dakota* (1992)). If the Supreme Court overturns *Quill*, state tax collectors would be empowered to reach across their boundaries to collect taxes from non-resident online retailers located

outside of their jurisdiction. These retailers could face fines or legal challenges from taxing jurisdictions based on rules in which the online retailers have no voice.

Forcing online retailers to understand and comply with remote rates, exemptions, rules, tax holidays, or other peculiarities of 12,000 different tax jurisdictions (roughly twice as many as existed in 1992) is highly discriminatory. Contrast this with the treatment of sales in similar brick-and-mortar businesses, which only require collection of tax for the jurisdiction in which they are physically located. The compliance costs would fall particularly hard on specialty businesses and small sellers that are dependent on the internet to reach their customers. This would stunt economic dynamism, deter business activity, and unreasonable burden businesses engaging in interstate commerce.

As state legislators, we recognize the threat to growth, and to each of our states, posed by the potential unleashing of aggressive out-of-state tax collectors and auditors on businesses located elsewhere. For nearly 20 years, ALEC members have steadfastly supported the physical presence standard outlined in Quill through model policies such as the Sales and Use Tax Collection Protection Act as well as the 21st Century Commercial Nexus Act. Our constituents overwhelmingly agree (according to a Rasmussen Reports Poll) with our opposition to allowing tax enforcement agents from one state to collect taxes from hardworking individuals and businesses elsewhere. Healthy economic competition in a free market, between the 50 "laboratories of democracy," is at the heart of the American experiment with federalism. Each year, the Rich States, Poor States publication reveals how tax policy affects state tax competition and economic outlook. Blurring—or eliminating—the limits of any individual state's sovereignty—erodes the efficacy of this experiment.

Sincerely,

**From:** American Legislative Exchange Council

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 1:41 PM

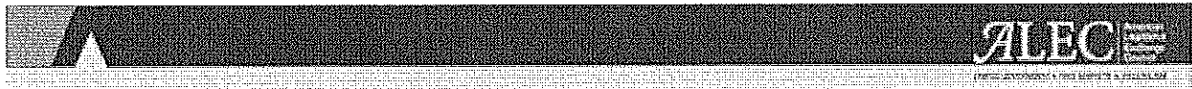
**To:** Rep48

**Subject:** ALEC Tuesday Update: Sign the Letter to Congress Advising against Online Sales Tax

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**State Legislators: Congress Needs to Hear From You! Please add Your Name to the Open Letter to Congress**

**Tell Congress: Requiring Businesses with no "Physical Presence" to Collect State Sales Taxes Violates the Constitution and Harms the U.S. Economy**

Dear Members of Congress,

As state legislators, we oppose the attempts to overturn constitutional precedent safeguarding Congress's essential authority to protect interstate commerce from discriminatory regulation and taxation. As a result, commerce has grown, unfettered between the states. Such a populous and geographically expansive free trade zone is largely responsible for the abundance of wealth and opportunity—unrivaled in history—spread across our nation. Unfortunately, some state policymakers are attempting to resolve their overspending problems to look aggressively beyond their own state lines for tax revenue. This misguided bid to resolve their overspending problems utterly violates the constitutional principles that provide a proving ground for innovation, entrepreneurship and small businesses.

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Forcing online retailers to understand and comply with remote rates, exemptions, rules, tax holidays, or other peculiarities of 12,000 different tax jurisdictions (roughly twice as many as existed in 1992) is highly discriminatory. Contrast this with the treatment of sales in similar brick-and-mortar businesses, which only require collection of tax for the jurisdiction in which they are physically located. The compliance costs would fall particularly hard on specialty businesses and small sellers that are dependent on the internet to reach their customers. This would stunt economic dynamism, deter business activity, and unreasonable burden businesses engaging in interstate commerce.

As state legislators, we recognize the threat to growth, and to each of our states, posed by the potential unleashing of aggressive out-of-state tax collectors and auditors on businesses located elsewhere. For nearly 20 years, ALEC members have steadfastly supported the physical presence standard outlined in Quill through model policies such as the Sales and Use Tax Collection Protection Act as well as the 21st Century Commercial Nexus Act. Our constituents overwhelmingly agree (according to a Rasmussen Reports Poll) with our opposition to allowing tax enforcement agents from one state to collect taxes from hardworking individuals and businesses elsewhere. Healthy economic competition in a free market, between the 50 "laboratories of democracy," is at the heart of the American experiment with federalism. Each year, the Rich States, Poor States publication reveals how tax policy affects state tax competition and economic outlook. Blurring—or eliminating—the limits of any individual state's sovereignty—erodes the efficacy of this experiment.

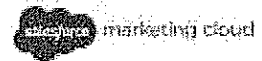
Sincerely,  
(Click here to add your name)

= A

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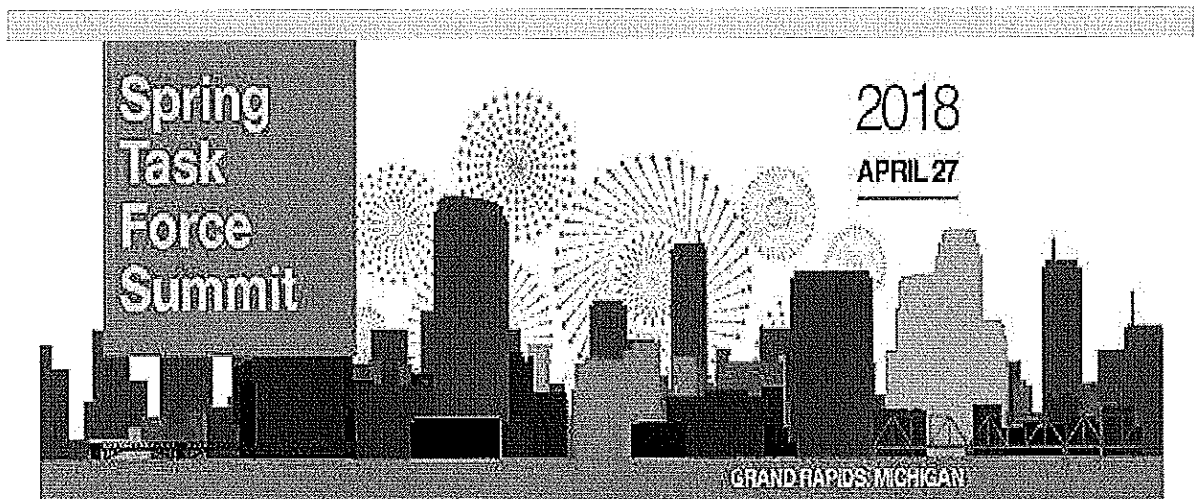
**From:** Courtney Cook  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2018 11:22 AM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Did you hear?

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## **Policy Spotlight: Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development**

The Task Force on Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development is excited to bring in new speakers and topics for the **Spring Task Force Summit**. Topics include presentations on Paid Leave by the Independent Women's Forum, Union Dues Skimming and Universal Basic Income. Autonomous vehicles are gaining interest and as a result we will hold a working group in Grand Rapids. Lastly, we are forming a joint subcommittee with the Civil Justice Task Force to review a model policy regarding administrative law. See below for some important dates related to our meeting:

- **March 28, 2018** – 30-Day Notice Published. This will contain a draft of the Task Force Meeting Agendas and model policies scheduled for consideration and review at the Task Force Meeting.
- **April 6, 2018** – Early Bird Registration and Housing Deadline
- **April 27, 2018** – Task Force Meeting

We hope you can join us at the **Spring Task Force Summit!**



[illegible]

The U.S. District Court in New York City rejected the claims of discrimination in its ruling that the bank failed to provide a "reasonable accommodation" to an employee with a physical disability. The court found that the bank's policy of requiring all employees to be able to perform the essential functions of the job was not discriminatory. The court also found that the bank's policy of requiring all employees to be able to perform the essential functions of the job was not discriminatory. The court also found that the bank's policy of requiring all employees to be able to perform the essential functions of the job was not discriminatory.

For a positive relation to exist and remain in the world of ideas, every day, after the 1960s, and after the series of 11000 different to find out by [Walter D. M. R. \(1952\)](#) highly scholarly. Correlates with the history of the world to be used as a historical relation only require a number of the for the prediction in which they are properly stated. The complex one must be particularly hard on scientific techniques and social values are also used in the process to reach the general. The world and beyond, however, the

State Legislators: Sign the ALEC Letter to Congress advising that requiring businesses with no "Physical Presence" to collect state sales taxes violates the constitution and harms the U.S. Economy.

Be sure to attend the **Internet Tax Workshop: Addressing Potential New Burdens on Interstate Commerce and Economic Growth** at the **Spring Task Force Summit** to continue the discussion on this hot topic.

### Read the Letter

## Full Conference Agenda

### Have you registered for the ALEC 2018 Spring Task Force Summit?

**When:** April 27, 2018

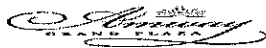
**Where:** The Amway Grand Plaza

Grand Rapids, MI

**Early Bird Deadline:** April 6, 2018

>> REGISTER NOW

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**Make your reservation today at the Amway Grand Plaza**

Book now through **April 6, 2018\*** at the ALEC rate of **\$179 per night.**

*\*based on availability*

**Book Now**

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**Questions?** Contact us at [meetings@alec.org](mailto:meetings@alec.org)

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Courtney Cook  
ALEC  
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Arlington, VA 22202

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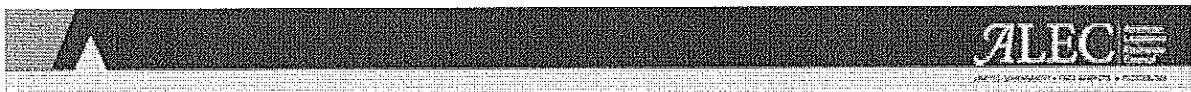
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**From:** American Legislative Exchange Council  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2018 12:37 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** What You Missed at ALEC: 3/15/2018

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**ALEC Digital Exchange: March 15, 2018**



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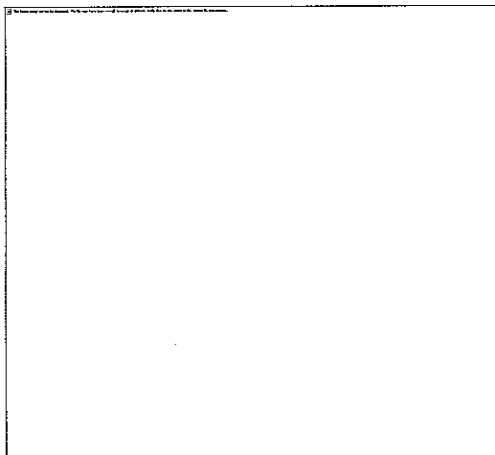
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**Online Sales Tax**

## **State Legislators Sign Here: Open Letter to Congress Opposing Internet State Sales Taxes**

American Legislative Exchange Council



Forcing online retailers to understand and comply with remote rates, exemptions, rules, tax holidays, or other peculiarities of 12,000 different tax jurisdictions is highly discriminatory. The compliance costs would fall particularly hard on small sellers dependent on the internet to reach their customers, stunting economic dynamism, deterring business activity, and placing an unreasonable burden on businesses engaging in interstate commerce.

**Sign the Letter**

---

## Criminal Justice Publication

### **State Factor: The Latest Trends of Asset Forfeiture Transparency and Juvenile Justice**

Ronald J. Lampard | Criminal Justice



In 2017, many states passed laws providing for increased transparency of the asset forfeiture process. Another issue that has gained traction in the states is raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction in criminal cases. This publication examines state trends on these two important policy issues.

[View Publication](#)

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## ALEC In The News

### **NJ Move Further Underfunds State Pensions**

Thurston Powers | Center for State Fiscal Reform | *The Asbury Park Press*



Newly appointed New Jersey State Treasurer Elizabeth Maher Muoio this month increased the state pension system discount rate from 7 to 7.5 percent, while phasing it back down to 7 percent over the next five years. New Jersey's decision to increase its discount rate stands in stark contrast to the majority of state pension plans decreasing their discount rates.

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State of the State Analysis

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## Center for State Fiscal Reform Analyzes Gubernatorial Addresses

Center for State Fiscal Reform



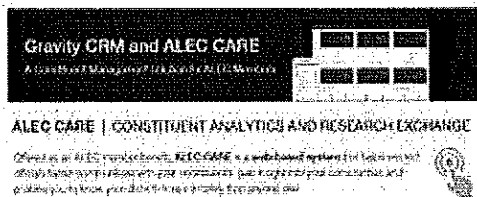
The ALEC Center for State Fiscal Reform continues its analysis of State of the State Addresses across the nation. These analyses identify strong and weak tax and fiscal policies outlined in these speeches and their importance to each state's economic outlook. New this week are: [Georgia](#), [Arkansas](#), [Mississippi](#), [Colorado](#), [South Carolina](#), [New Jersey](#), [Kansas](#), [Tennessee](#), [Rhode Island](#), [Delaware](#) and [Maine](#). To see all the responses so far, follow the link below.

[View Articles](#)

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## ALEC Care

### Constituent Relations at Your Fingertips



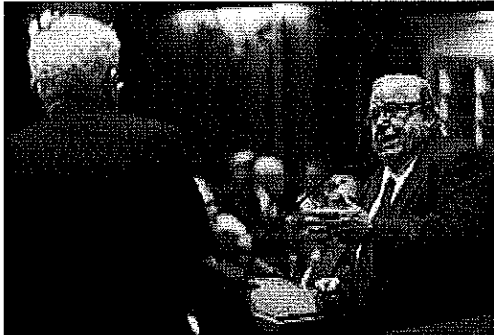
As ALEC members you have access to an online portal to handle all your constituent management needs. Take notes on incoming interactions, track issues of concern, poll constituents for insight. All of this is at your fingertips, simply as a member benefit. To activate your personal account, and schedule an online webinar to review the platform, you can contact our C.A.R.E. Associate, Aaron Gillham, at [agillham@alec.org](mailto:agillham@alec.org).

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## ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

### Providing a Better Future in Indiana

Representative Woody Burton | IN-58



This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce **Indiana State Representative Woody Burton**. Representative Burton is the current chair of the Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development Task Force at ALEC. When Representative Burton isn't fighting against property taxes, he's committed to fixing Indiana's Child Services system, saying "If I had one wish for our state, it would be that the Department of Child Services would be completely revamped, so that all Hoosier kids can come home to a safe and loving environment."

[Read Article](#)

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## STFS 2018

### **Register Now for the Spring Task Force Summit**



Early Bird registration is currently open for the 2018 Spring Task Force Summit. The summit will take place on **April 27, 2018 in Grand Rapids, MI**. Click the link below to get more information and register for the conference.

[Register Here](#)



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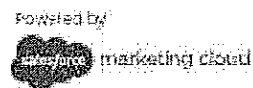


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**From:** Ashley Varner

**Sent:** Sunday, March 18, 2018 4:03 PM

**To:** Rep48

**Subject:** Kirk, Please Sign This Congressional Letter Opposing Internet Sales Taxes

Dear Kirk,

Please add your name to the below ALEC coalition letter advising Congress not to allow states to impose sales taxes on Internet purchases with out-of-state businesses.

Such aggressive taxation would require businesses to understand and comply with rates, exemptions, rules, tax holidays and other peculiarities for 12,000 different tax jurisdictions. State lawmakers across the country are urging Congress not to allow such aggressive taxation. Please join the letter today by providing your name here.



Dear Members of Congress,

As state legislators, we oppose the attempts to overturn constitutional precedent safeguarding Congress's essential authority to protect interstate commerce from discriminatory regulation and taxation. As a result, commerce has grown, unfettered between the states. Such a populous and geographically expansive free trade zone is largely responsible for the abundance of wealth and opportunity—unrivaled in history—spread across our nation. Unfortunately, some state policymakers are attempting to resolve their overspending problems to look aggressively beyond their own state lines for tax revenue. This misguided bid to resolve their overspending problems utterly violates the constitutional principles that provide a proving ground for innovation, entrepreneurship and small businesses.

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Forcing online retailers to understand and comply with remote rates, exemptions, rules, tax holidays, or other peculiarities of 12,000 different tax jurisdictions (roughly twice as many as existed in 1992) is highly discriminatory. Contrast this with the treatment of sales

in similar brick-and-mortar businesses, which only require collection of tax for the jurisdiction in which they are physically located. The compliance costs would fall particularly hard on specialty businesses and small sellers that are dependent on the internet to reach their customers. This would stunt economic dynamism, deter business activity, and unreasonable burden businesses engaging in interstate commerce.

As state legislators, we recognize the threat to growth, and to each of our states, posed by the potential unleashing of aggressive out-of-state tax collectors and auditors on businesses located elsewhere. For nearly 20 years, ALEC members have steadfastly supported the physical presence standard outlined in Quill through model policies such as the Sales and Use Tax Collection Protection Act as well as the 21st Century Commercial Nexus Act. Our constituents overwhelmingly agree (according to a Rasmussen Reports Poll) with our opposition to allowing tax enforcement agents from one state to collect taxes from hardworking individuals and businesses elsewhere. Healthy economic competition in a free market, between the 50 "laboratories of democracy," is at the heart of the American experiment with federalism. Each year, the Rich States, Poor States publication reveals how tax policy affects state tax competition and economic outlook. Blurring—or eliminating—the limits of any individual state's sovereignty—erodes the efficacy of this experiment.

Sincerely,

Add your name here

**From:** Bartlett Cleland

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2018 12:02 PM

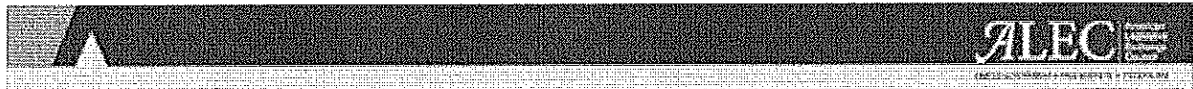
**To:** Rep48

**Subject:** Center for Innovation and Technology: Video Game Violence and the Game Washington Plays

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Center for Innovation and Technology - March 20, 2018

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### **From Center Director Bartlett Cleland: Video Game Violence and the Game Washington Plays**

Almost like clockwork after a tragedy of gun violence, special interests begin pointing fingers. One of the regular targets of such finger pointing is the video game industry. Rather than looking to solve problems, all too predictably there are those who look to exploit the heartbreak of others. The evil perpetrated in Parkland, Florida resulted in the same, although compared to Sandy Hook this time the reactions were a bit more reasonable.

Back then, just days after the horrendous shooting, then-Senator and chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, Jay Rockefeller, did not miss the opportunity to exploit the situation by calling for a study of video game violence and its effects on children. Not to be shoved down a step on the grandstand, then Vice - President Joe Biden called for more studies to see if any evidence could be found linking violent video games to real life violence, despite the fact that studies show there is no scientific proof linking the two. The goal seemed to be to simply keep

calling for a study until one produced a result he liked. Joe Biden was just playing games.

This time President Trump held a meeting at the White House with video game executives and watchdog groups, and to the credit of the White House, attendees reported that no planned actions were announced. Hopefully this is a sign that the political class is beginning to appreciate the facts.

The facts:

- Study after study has shown that there is no causal link between video games and violence. Similarly, no causal link has been found media violence and violent crime.
- Exactly during the time that video game sales and popularity have exploded, violent crime has dramatically decreased.
- The U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Surgeon General, Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Trade Commission studied the scientific record and did not find a causal link between violent programming and violent behavior.
- The average game player is 35 years old.
- A whopping 90 percent of time parents are present when children are buying or renting videogames.
- Ninety-four percent of the time parents are monitoring the content of the games their children are playing.
- Parents report that existing voluntary video game industry standards and the restrictions on sales put in place by the industry are helpful, accurate and reliable. The ESRB system that has long been hailed in many quarters as the standard to be followed for industry responsibility and self-regulation.
- New video game consoles include parental controls that limit access to games based on the ESRB ratings. Ninety-four percent of parents find these controls useful.

The focus on emotional leaps and assumptions, such that video games lead to gun violence, only result in one thing, that is, real solutions to protecting our children are ignored. Where video games are concerned, parental responsibility is the key. No amount of liberty limiting laws will meet the challenge. All credible research makes the same point: The key to protecting kids is a multilayered approach combining technology, law enforcement, caregiver oversight and private educational efforts such as the voluntary rating system.

Parents overwhelmingly understand their roles and are acting appropriately. Blaming entertainment software for violence and even specific violent acts, seems to a game that is only played in Washington by special interests and grandstanding politicians

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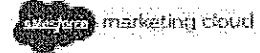


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**From:** OAC Riffe Gallery

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2018 11:03 AM

**To:** Rep48

**Subject:** OAC's Riffe Gallery presents Women to Watch Ohio - 2018 [May 3 - July 7, 2018]

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Women to Watch Ohio - 2018, May 3 - July 7, = 9

2018

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Share with #RiffeGallery, #WomentoWatchOhio2018,

#DowntownCbusArt, #ArtsOhio

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Riffe Gallery  
OHIO ARTS COUNCIL

# WOMEN TO WATCH OHIO - 2018

A collaboration with the Ohio Advisory Group of the  
National Museum of Women in the Arts

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MAY 3 - JULY 7, 2018



The Ohio Arts Council's (OAC) Riffe Gallery presents *Women to Watch Ohio – 2018*, May 3 – July 7, 2018.

*Women to Watch Ohio – 2018* showcases the work of 10 Ohio women working with metal through sculpture, installation, jewelry, and two-dimensional works. The exhibition is developed in collaboration with the Ohio Advisory Group of the National Museum of Women in the Arts and is curated by Ann Bremner and Matt Distel.

The exhibition features artists Mary Jo Bole (Columbus), Carol Boram-Hays (Columbus), Carmel Buckley (Cincinnati), Susan Ewing (Oxford), Tracy Featherstone (Hamilton), Llewellynn Fletcher (Cincinnati), Leila Khoury (Cleveland), Kelly Malec-Kosak (Columbus), Marissa Saneholtz (Bowling Green), and Olga Ziemaska (Cleveland).

The exhibition references an international Women to Watch exhibition held every two to three years in Washington D.C. at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, with the support of outreach affiliates and museum curators around the world. This is the second Women to Watch Ohio exhibition initiated by the Ohio Advisory Group and the first to encompass mid-Ohio as well as the northeast and southwest regions of the state.

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**ALL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE  
PUBLIC**

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**OPENING RECEPTION**

**Thursday, May 3, 5 - 7 p.m.**

Be the first to see the exhibition, meet the

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**CURATORS' TOUR**

**Friday, May 4, noon - 1 p.m.**



artists, curators, and other art enthusiasts.  
Live music by Cherry Chrome.

Ann Bremner and Matt Distel will lead an  
in-depth tour about the exhibition.

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**WIRE DRAWING IN SPACE WITH  
CARMEL BUCKLEY**

**Friday, May 11, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Bend and join wire to create portrait  
sculptures. Register at RiffeGallery.org,  
April 23 – May 10.

**BYZANTINE BRACELET MAKING  
WITH KELLY MALEC-KOSAK**

**Wednesday, May 23, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Learn to create a woven bracelet using  
metal jump rings. Register at  
RiffeGallery.org, May 4 – May 22.

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**FAMILY AND FRIENDS  
PLAYSHOP WITH OLGA ZIEMSKA**

**Saturday, June 23, 1 – 3 p.m.**

Use natural materials to build a bas-relief  
sculpture utilizing positive and negative  
space. Register at RiffeGallery.org, May  
23 – June 22.

**ARTIST TALKS**

**noon - 1 p.m.**

Llewellynn Fletcher | Tuesday, May 22

Susan Ewing | Wednesday, May 30

Mary Jo Bole | Wednesday, June 13

Marissa Saneholtz | Thursday, June 14

Leila Khoury | Tuesday, June 19

Tracy Featherstone | Wednesday, June  
20

Carol Boram-Hays | Wednesday,  
June 27

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Funding is provided by Elizabeth Crane, Gries Financial LLC, Scott Mueller, and Barbara  
S. Robinson. Media support is provided by CD102.5, *CityScene*, Ohio Channel, WOSU,  
*Ohio Magazine*, and WCBE 90.5 FM.

## ABOUT THE OHIO ADVISORY GROUP OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS

The National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) in Washington D.C. is the world's only museum solely dedicated to celebrating the creative accomplishments of women. With its collections, exhibitions, programs, and online content, NMWA champions women through the arts and advocates for equity. As the exclusive affiliate of NMWA in Ohio, the Ohio Advisory Group (OAG) extends the mission by showcasing women's contributions to our state's rich cultural landscape. Visit [ohioadvisorygroup-nmwa.org](http://ohioadvisorygroup-nmwa.org)

OHIO ADVISORY GROUP  
NATIONAL MUSEUM  
OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS

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## LOBBY EXHIBITION

*Accessible Expressions Ohio, VSA Ohio*

June 13 - July 11, 2018

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## GALLERY LOCATION

Vern Riffe Center for Government & the Arts  
77 South High Street, First Floor Lobby  
Columbus, OH 43215  
*Use the State Street entrance on Thursday  
evenings and Saturdays.*

## HOURS

Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Thur | 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Sat | 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
*Closed Sundays and state holidays.*

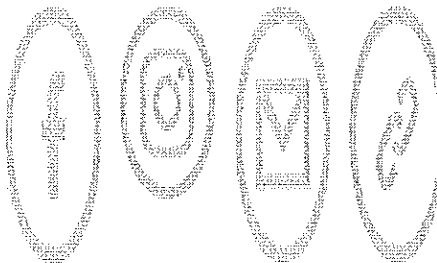
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## CONTACT

614-644-9624  
TTY/TDD use Ohio Relay Service:  
800-750-0750  
[riffegallery@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:riffegallery@oac.ohio.gov)

## ENGAGE

Connect with this exhibition and others  
[#RiffeGallery](#), [#WomentoWatchOhio2018](#),  
[#DowntownCbusArt](#), [#ArtsOhio](#)  
[RiffeGallery.org](http://RiffeGallery.org)



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The gallery is supported by these media sponsors: CD102.5, CityScene, Ohio Channel, WOSU, Ohio Magazine, and WCBE 90.5 FM.

Image credit

Image designer: Susan Hessler

Artwork: Carol Boram-Hays, *WHOOSH* (detail), 2017, steel, duct tape, 114" x 80" x 48"

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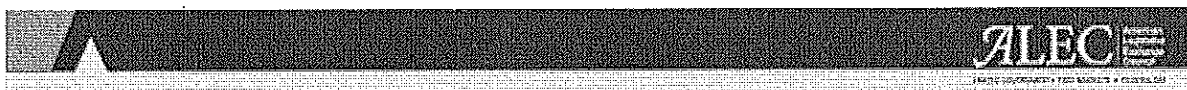
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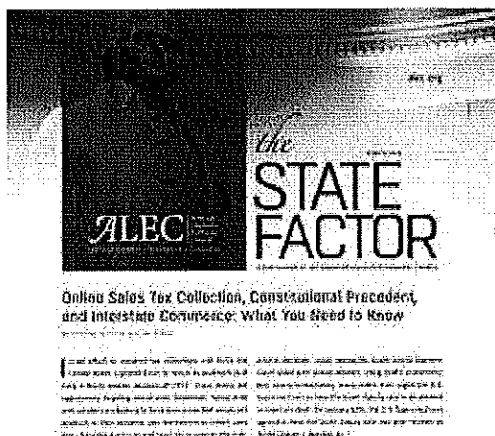
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## Online Sales Tax

### Educating Policymakers on Internet Sales Tax

American Legislative Exchange Council



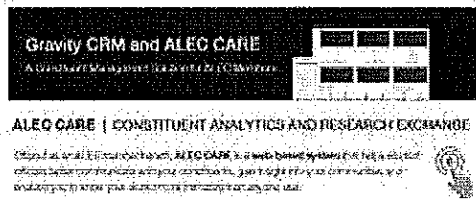
There is much confusion and misinformation around the topic of expanding Online Sales Tax collection. ALEC is working to clear up these misunderstandings and educate leaders on this nuanced issue. ALEC Chief Economist Jonathan Williams will be on a **Freedomworks Facebook Live** today at **1PM** to talk about Internet Sales Tax. Additionally, the Center For State Fiscal Reform has **produced a report** to help you better grasp the issue.

State Legislators, please consider signing the **open legislator letter** below concerning Online Sales Tax collection.

Sign the Letter

## ALEC Care

### Constituent Relations and Tracking at Your Fingertips



Are you familiar with your ALEC member benefit, C.A.R.E.? This online platform is your new go-to for all constituent tracking. We pre-populate your account with public records and let you fill in notes and data relevant to your daily work. To activate your personal account, and schedule an online webinar to review the platform, **contact our C.A.R.E. Associate, Aaron Gillham, today at [agillham@alec.org](mailto:agillham@alec.org)**

## ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

### Working to Heal Kentucky

Senator Dr. Ralph Alvarado | KY-28

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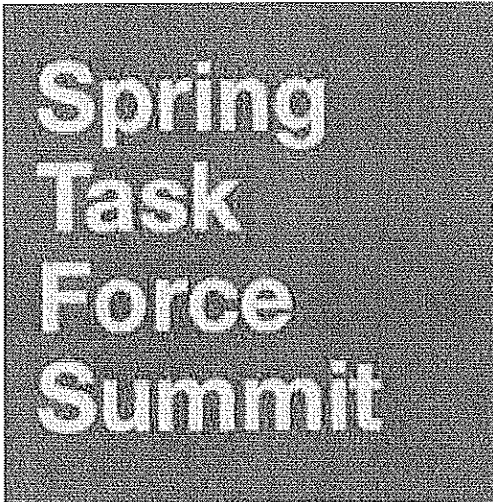


This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce **Kentucky Senator Dr. Ralph Alvarado**. Dr. Alvarado has been a physician in Winchester, KY since 1998 and entered the legislature to pursue more comprehensive health care regulations and fix the tort system, saying "clearly, there was a need for a physician voice in the General Assembly and someone to champion these causes."

Read Article

STFS 2018

## Register Now for the Spring Task Force Summit



Registration is currently open for the 2018 Spring Task Force Summit. The summit will take place on **April 27, 2018 in Grand Rapids, MI**. Click the link below to get more information and register for the conference. In addition, watch your inbox for the 30-Day Mailer, containing model policies up for consideration at the summit.

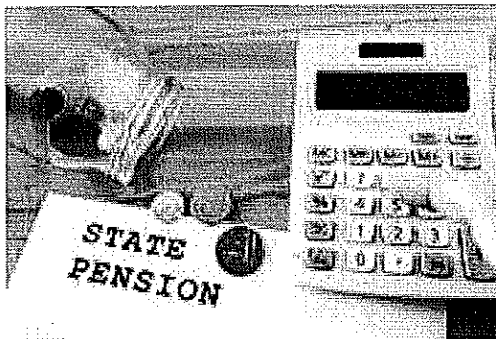
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## Pension Reform

### **Converting Pension Plans from Defined Benefit (DB) to Defined Contribution (DC): The Myths and the Messaging (Part 3)**

Steve Anderson | Center for State Fiscal Reform



The information monopoly possessed by Defined Benefit (DB) plan actuaries creates an enormous information imbalance in the discussion over how to transition from a DB to a Defined Contribution (DC) plan. Demanding the right data in order to separate reality from accounting anomalies enables policymakers to take back control of the narrative.

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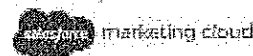


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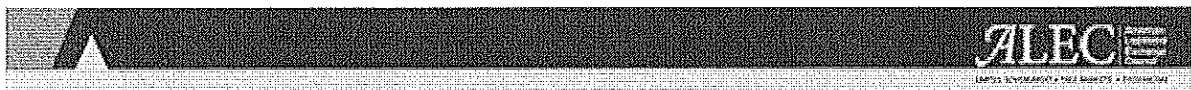


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Center for State Fiscal Reform - March 27, 2018



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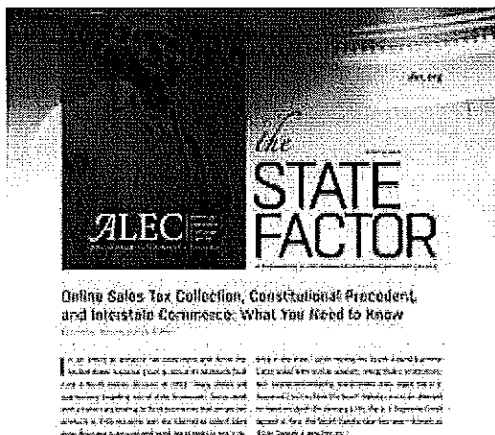
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Online Sales Tax

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## Online Sales Tax Collection, Constitutional Precedent, and Interstate Commerce: What You Need to Know

Center for State Fiscal Reform



There is much confusion and misinformation around the topic of expanding Online Sales Tax collection. ALEC is working to clear up these misunderstandings and educate leaders on this nuanced issue. The Center For State Fiscal Reform has **produced a report** to help you better understand the issue. Additionally, ALEC Chief Economist and VP of the Center for State Fiscal Reform Jonathan Williams recently **appeared on a FreedomWorks Facebook Live** to discuss the topic.

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State Legislators, please consider signing

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the open legislator letter below  
concerning Online Sales Tax collection.

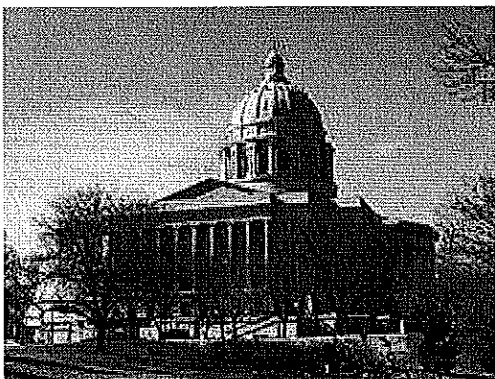
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## Legislator Voices

### **North Carolina, not Kansas, is the Tax Cut Model**

MO Senator Ed Emery and Jonathan Williams | *Kansas City Star*



There are right and wrong ways to go about tax reform, and the overspending pitfalls from Kansas should be kept in mind. However, North Carolina provides Missouri with a better road map for tax reform that works.

[Read Article](#)

---

## Expert Insight

### **NJ Move Further Underfunds State Pensions**

Thurston Powers | Center for State Fiscal Reform | *Asbury Park Press*



Newly appointed New Jersey State Treasurer Elizabeth Maher Muoio this month increased the state pension system discount rate from 7 to 7.5 percent, while phasing it back down to 7 percent over the next five years. New Jersey's decision to increase its discount rate stands in stark contrast to the majority of state pension plans decreasing their discount rates.

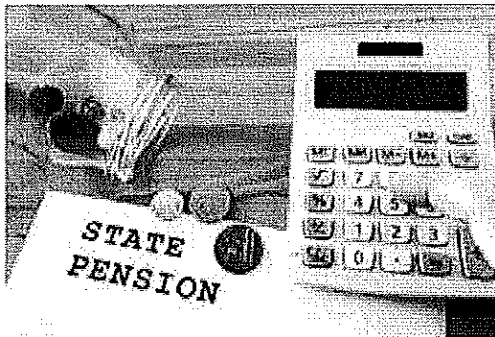
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## Pension Reform

### Converting Pension Plans from Defined Benefit (DB) to Defined Contribution (DC): The Myths and the Messaging

Steve Anderson | Center for State Fiscal Reform



The information monopoly possessed by Defined Benefit (DB) plan actuaries creates an enormous information imbalance in the discussion over how to transition from a DB to a Defined Contribution (DC) plan. Demanding the right data in order to separate reality from accounting anomalies enables policymakers to take back control of the narrative.

[Read Article](#)

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## Williams Report

### The Williams Report

Bob Williams | Center For State Fiscal Reform



ALEC Senior Scholar Bob Williams recaps the important stories and trends in budget and pension reform that you may have missed over the last month

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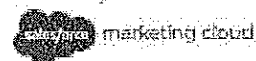
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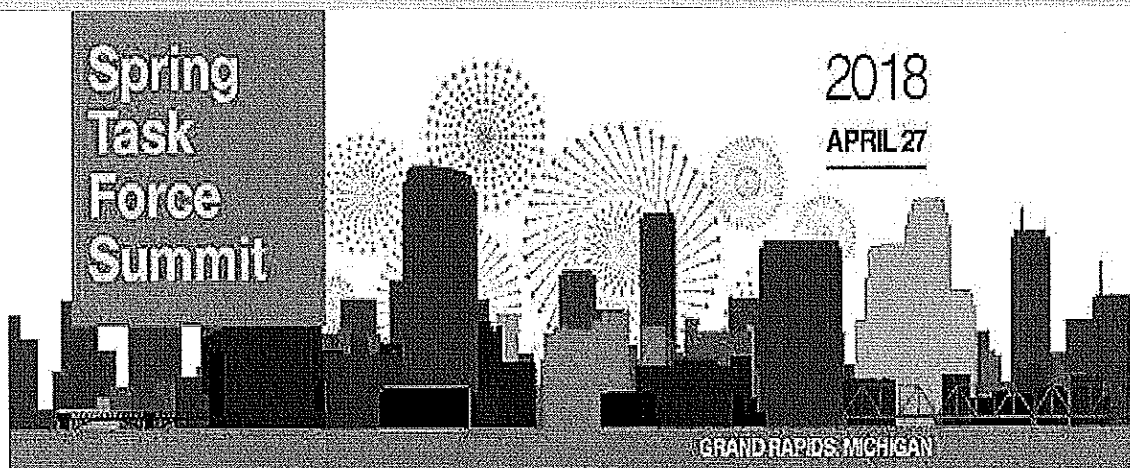
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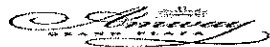
**Early Bird and Housing Ends on April 6**

**When:** April 27, 2018

**Where:** The Amway Grand Plaza

Grand Rapids, MI

**Early Bird Deadline:** April 6, 2018



**Make your reservation today at  
the Amway Grand Plaza**

Book now through **April 6, 2018\*** at the ALEC rate of **\$179**  
per night.

*\*based on availability*

[Book Now](#)

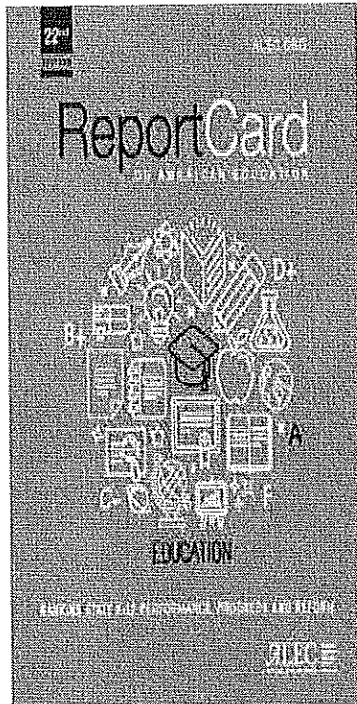
## **Policy Spotlight: Education and Workforce Development**

Register today and join the Task Force on Education and Workforce Development as it digs behind the headlines and question experts about common sense changes to school security and discipline policies that might prevent the next Parkland tragedy.

Join us in Grand Rapids, MI at the Spring Task Force Summit as the task force continues discussions on issues that are effecting your state!



[Full Conference Agenda](#)



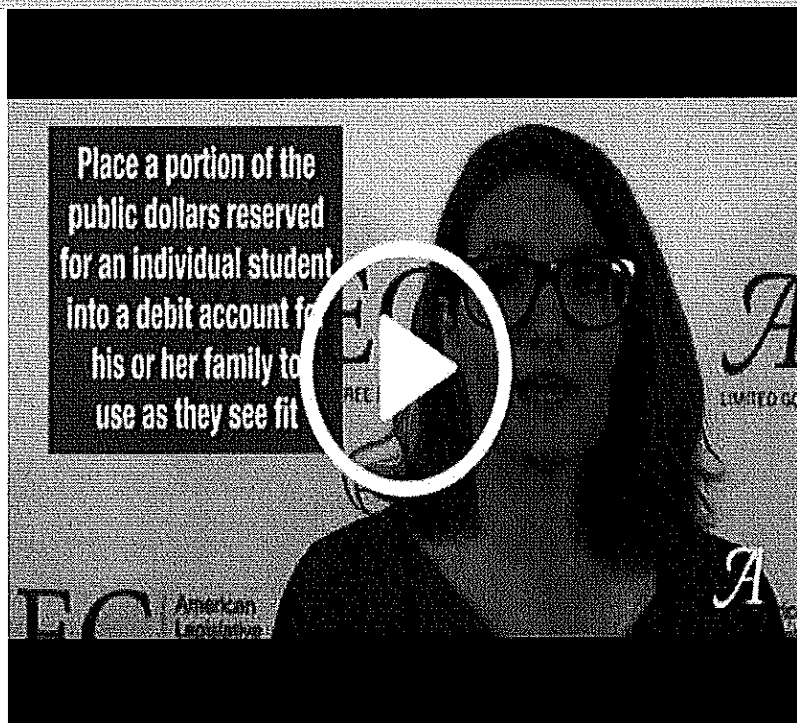
## Report Card on American Education: 22nd Edition

The status quo is not working. Whether by international comparisons, state and national proficiency measures, civic literacy rates, or career preparedness, American students are falling behind. The 22nd edition of the Report Card on American Education ranks states on their K-12 education and policy performance. Find your state ranking below.

Your State Report Card

## What are Educational Savings Accounts (ESA)?





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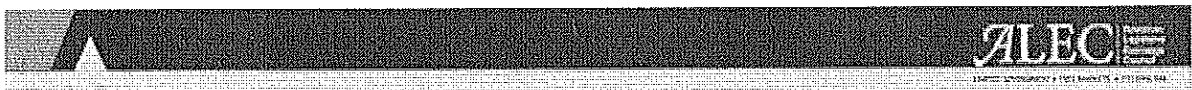
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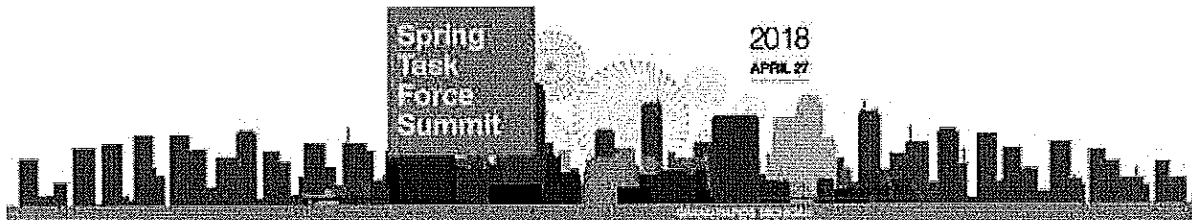
**ALEC Digital Exchange - March 29, 2018**



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**New ALEC Publication**

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## Other Post-Employment Benefit Liabilities 2017

Thurston Powers, Jonathan Williams, Joel Griffith | American Legislative Exchange Council



March 29, 2018

### Other Post-Employment Benefit Liabilities, 2017

The continuing need for OPEB reform

Other Post-Employment Benefits, 2017 surveys the more than 100 state-administered post-employment benefit plans, such as health insurance, Medicare advantage, life insurance, and other non-pension benefits. The report details the assets, assumptions, and risk-free liabilities, illuminating both the risks that states

face and potential reforms they can take to avert a crisis

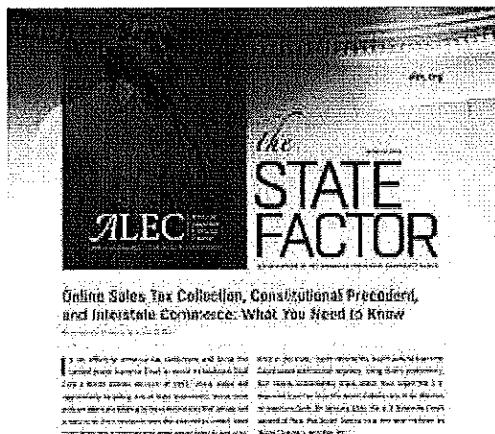
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## Online Sales Tax

### Online Sales Tax Collection, Constitutional Precedent, and Interstate Commerce: What You Need to Know

Center for State Fiscal Reform



[View Video](#)

There is much confusion and misinformation around the topic of expanding Online Sales Tax collection. ALEC is working to clear up these misunderstandings and educate leaders on this nuanced issue. The Center For State Fiscal Reform has **produced a report** to help you better understand the issue. Additionally, ALEC Chief Economist and VP of the Center for State Fiscal Reform Jonathan Williams recently **appeared on a FreedomWorks Facebook Live** to discuss the topic.

State Legislators, please consider signing the open legislator letter below concerning Online Sales Tax collection.

[View Letter](#)

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ALEC CARE  
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**Constituent Relations and Management at Your Fingertips**



Did you know that ALEC has an online platform built just for you, to handle your day-to-day constituent interactions? We provide this benefit free to all members, your new suite of tools to be more effective legislators by having a permanent place for notes, issue tracking, and even outreach. **Contact our C.A.R.E. Associate, Aaron Gillham, today at [agillham@alec.org](mailto:agillham@alec.org), to schedule a webinar and activate your personal account.**

STFS 2018

## Early Bird Registration for Spring Task Force Summit Ends Soon



Early Bird registration for the 2018 Spring Task Force Summit in Grand Rapids, MI **ends on April 6**. Follow the link below to register. In addition, **look out for an e-mail from your task force director containing draft policy for the upcoming Spring Task Force Summit.**

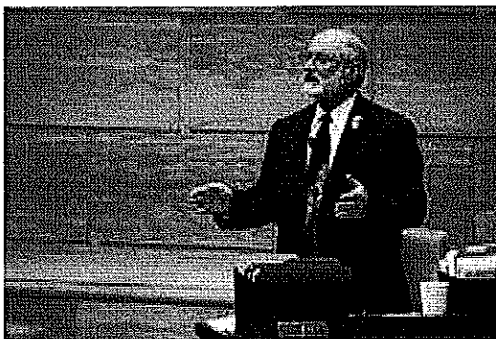
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## ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

### Working to Grow Missouri

Senator Brian Munzlinger | MO-18



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This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce **Missouri State Senator Brian Munzlinger**. Senator Munzlinger is a third generation Missouri farmer who cares deeply about growing local business in his state and ran for office to "ensure that the voices and concerns of rural Missouri and agriculture continue to be heard."

[Read Article](#)

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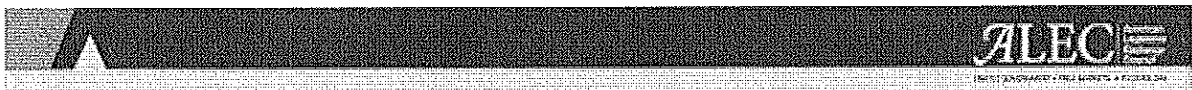
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Dear Communications and Technology Task Force Members,

As the Spring Task Force Summit nears, please make sure to take a look at the important 30-Day Notification materials below! Included on your Task Force's webpage are draft agendas for the subcommittees, working groups and the Task Force meetings, as well as the model policies in line for Task Force consideration. I look forward to seeing you in Grand Rapids.

[View Draft Policies](#)

In addition, I wanted to quickly write and let you know of an upcoming opportunity. Next **Thursday, April 5 at 1:00 PM**, the Communications and Technology Task Force will host a conference call with FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr. The focus of the call will be on recent FCC actions to prepare for 5G and streamline the federal review process for tomorrow's communications technologies.

If you would like to participate, please RSVP to me at [jhauenschild@alec.org](mailto:jhauenschild@alec.org). I will send the details to those who RSVP closer to the call.

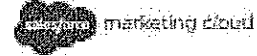
Best,

Jonathon Hauenschild, Director

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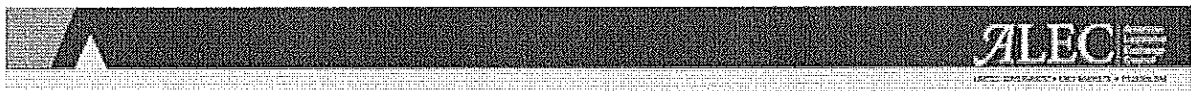


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Dear ALEC Members,

I wanted to reach out with a few updates in anticipation of seeing you in **Grand Rapids for the Spring Task Force Summit next month**. The spring meeting is shaping up nicely with each task force putting together their respective meetings and policy briefing.

Yesterday afternoon, each task force director distributed draft model policy for consideration at the meeting. In Grand Rapids, ALEC will consider models for online speech, the taxation of marijuana, education savings accounts and charter schools and energy extraction from federal lands, among many others. **Each task force is linked at the bottom of this email** so you have the opportunity to review all of the policies being considered at the meeting. If you are interested in joining another task force or sitting in on another meeting, please contact [vice president of member relations Jeff Lambert](#).

In addition to our regularly scheduled meetings, ALEC is partnering with the Job Creators Network to the kick off of the "Tax Cuts Work" national bus tour in Grand Rapids on Friday morning. **Many of you will remember the success ALEC had at voicing the state legislator perspective during the federal tax reform debate last year.** The "Tax Cuts Work" bus tour will help you bring that message home to your district as they travel the states sharing what the tax cut has meant for the economy and everyday moms and dads. I want you to be part of the campaign launch and later **serve as a great messenger for jobs and the economy between now and the end of the year.** Look out for more on the "Tax Cuts Work" tour in the coming weeks.

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Finally, a word about the exchange of ideas. The ALEC 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary has afforded me the opportunity to reflect on where ALEC has been and where it is going. ALEC has been and remains a leader on many of the key policy issues that face the states. This is the case because ALEC is consistent and reliable as it relates to limited government, free markets and federalism. ALEC legislators are more informed and more collaborative. Our model policy more deeply studied and debated. ALEC's often unsung but dramatic policy victories are a product of our organization's approach: Exchange. For example, the first school voucher program in the United States was in Milwaukee in 1989 (led by ALEC members). By the 1993 legislative sessions, voucher policies were championed by ALEC members in 45 states.

It's quite simple really. The best ideas are made even better when shared. We all come to ALEC for substantive policies debates. As you make plans to attend the Spring Task Force Summit next month, what perspective or unique point of view can you bring to task force discussions? Everyone benefits from the exchange of ideas that takes place at ALEC.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in Grand Rapids.

Sincerely,

Lisa B. Nelson  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Legislative Exchange Council

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**ALEC Spring Task Force Summit Draft Model Policy**

Civil Justice

Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development

Communications and Technology

Criminal Justice

Education and Workforce Development

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Energy, Environment and Agriculture

Health and Human Services

Tax and Fiscal Policy


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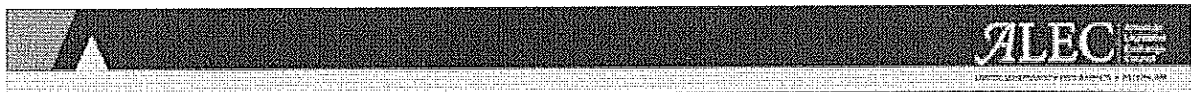
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Dear Members of the Communications and Technology Task Force,

I wanted to quickly write and let you know of an upcoming opportunity. This **Thursday, April 5 at 1:00 PM**, the Communications and Technology Task Force will host a conference call with FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr. The focus of the call will be on recent FCC actions to prepare for 5G and streamline the federal review process for tomorrow's communications technologies.

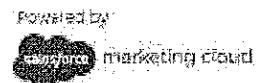
If you would like to participate, please RSVP to me at [jhauenschild@alec.org](mailto:jhauenschild@alec.org). I will send the details to those who RSVP closer to the call.

Best,

Jonathon Hauenschild  
Director, Communications and Technology Task Force

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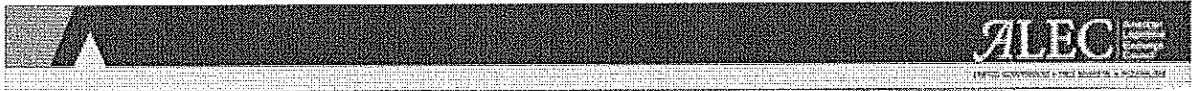
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**Center to Restore the Balance of Government**  
April 4, 2018



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### Chairman's Corner

## **A Message from Iowa House Speaker and Chair of the ALEC Center to Restore the Balance of Government Linda Upmeyer**

Federalism is the linchpin of America's system of governance. It is woven so seamlessly into the fabric of our nation that it escapes notice until the delicate balance between local, state and national governance is disrupted. In spite of its impact on almost every aspect of our lives, federalism is often treated as a lofty concept, rather than a common sense system that employs the simple logic that real solutions are found in the fifty laboratories of democracy, not one-size fits all federal government policies that disregard regional differences and local community needs. The Chairman's Corner exposes the challenges that state lawmakers face every day and seeks to provide pragmatic best practices for our legislator readers and to underscore federalism's real world implications for non-legislator readers.

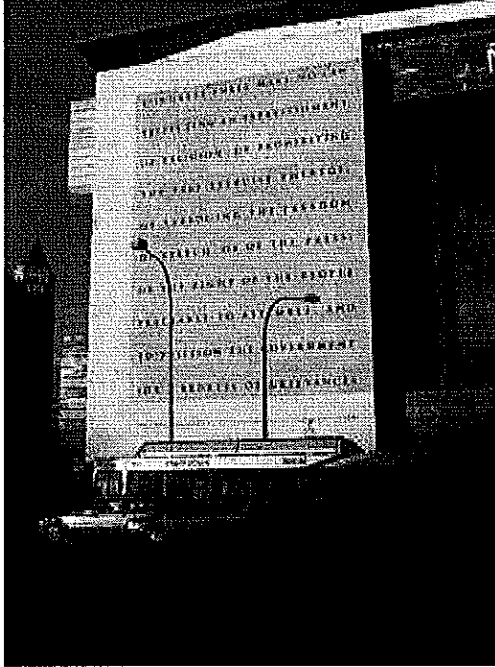
The latest installment in the series, ***Investing in Infrastructure, can be accessed here.***

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International Democracy

## Freedom of the Press is Often the First Casualty

Karla Jones | Federalism and International Relations Task Force



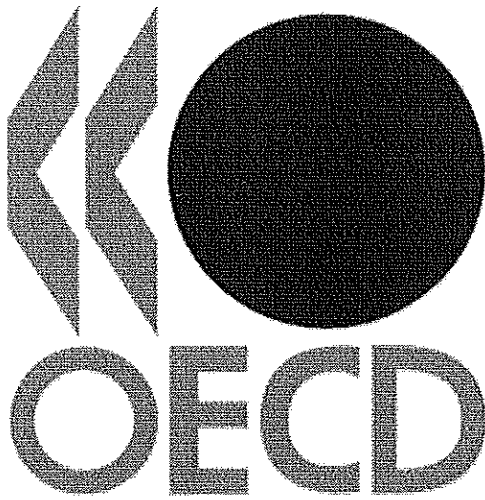
Whether well-established or nascent, faltering democracies share striking similarities on the path toward authoritarianism including an early delegitimizing of the media. Intuitively understanding the relationship between access to information and the long term success of liberal democracy, the framers of the U.S. Constitution included prohibitions against “abridging freedom of ... the press” in the First Amendment. Unfortunately, autocrats also fear the power of a free press and view media repression as a high priority. In the coming weeks, Malaysia’s legislature will consider legislation that calls for prison terms of up to six years for disseminating “fake news” loosely defined as news, information, data or reports that are “wholly or partially false.” Images and audio, including foreign content that could affect Malaysia would be designated as “fake news” even minus evidence that the alleged falsehood caused harm. **[Read more about Malaysia’s authoritarian slide here.](#)**

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## Intellectual Property Update

### The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Releases Report on Illicit Trade

Karla Jones | Federalism and International Relations Task Force

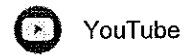
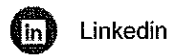


Enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, intellectual property rights are part of America's constitutional heritage. Millions of American jobs owe their existence to the innovation economy and IP-intensive industries tend to offer higher wages than other industries. With globalization, strong domestic IP rights protections are no longer sufficient – America's economic partners also need to uphold similarly robust IP protection and enforcement standards. The OECD Task Force on Countering Illicit Trade Policy released a report in March "Governance Frameworks to Counter Illicit Trade" that is an invaluable resource for those interested in learning more about the consequences of illicit trade and steps governments around the world can take to counter intellectual property theft and counterfeits. [Read more here.](#)

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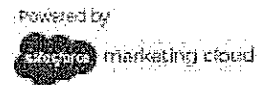
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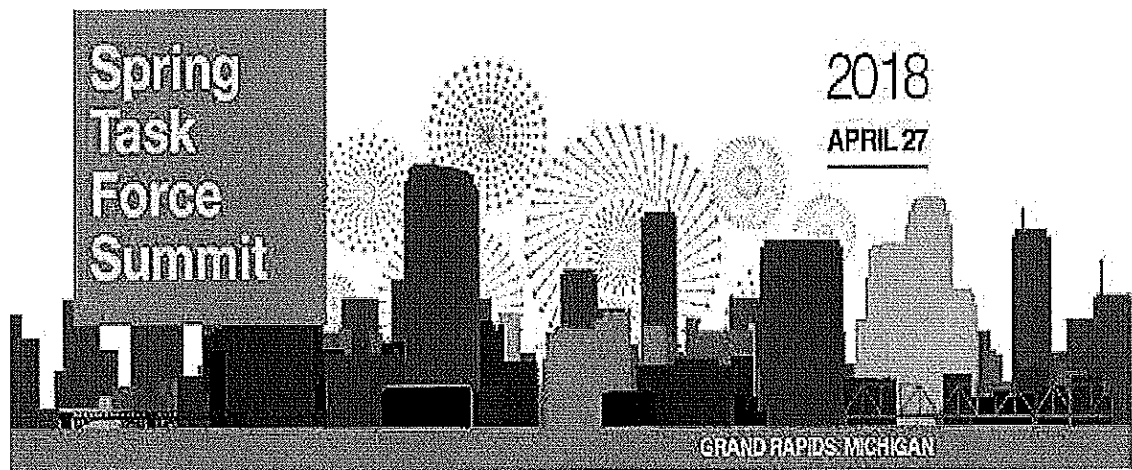
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Early Bird and Housing end this Friday, April 6



## **Policy Spotlight: 30-Day Notification**

As ALEC CEO, Lisa Nelson, mentioned in her monthly update, the best ideas are made even better when shared. As you make plans to attend the Spring Task Force Summit in Grand Rapids, MI, what perspective or unique point of view can you bring to discussions? Everyone benefits from the exchange of ideas that takes place at ALEC.

Last week, each task force director distributed draft model policy for consideration at the Spring Task Force Summit. Included on each task force's webpage are draft

agendas for the subcommittees, working groups and the Task Force meetings. Each task force is linked at the bottom of this email. Please take a moment to visit their pages and learn more about what will be discussed at the summit. We look forward to seeing you in Grand Rapids, MI!

### **Spring Task Force Summit**

**When:** April 27, 2018

**Where:** The Amway Grand Plaza  
Grand Rapids, MI

**Early Bird Deadline:** April 6, 2018



### **Make your reservation at the Amway Grand Plaza**

Book now through **April 6, 2018\*** at the ALEC  
rate of **\$179 per night.**

*\*based on availability*

**Book Now**

## **ALEC Task Force Information**

Civil Justice

Commerce, Insurance and Economic  
Development

Communications and Technology  
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Criminal Justice

Education and Workforce Development

Energy, Environment and Agriculture

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Tax and Fiscal Policy

### **Full Conference Agenda**

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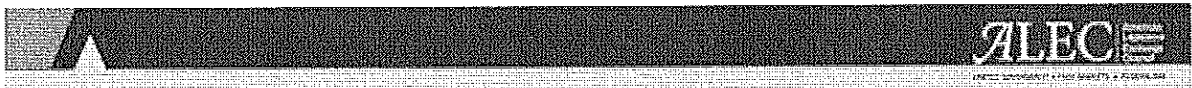
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**Online Sales Tax**

**ALEC Submits Amicus Curiae Brief on Online Sales Tax Case (South Dakota v. Wayfair)**

American Legislative Exchange Council

No. 17-191

IN THE  
Supreme Court of the United States

SOUTH DAKOTA,  
*Petitioner,*

vs.  
WAYFAIR INC. ET AL.  
*Respondent.*

On Writ of Certiorari to the  
Supreme Court of South Dakota

BRIEF AMICUS CURIAE FOR THE  
AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE  
COUNCIL  
IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDENT

JONATHAN P. HAUENSCHILD  
*Counsel of Record*  
JOEL GRIFFITH  
BARTLETT CLELAND  
AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL  
2800 Crystal Dr., Ste. 600,  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Main • (703) 373-0933  
[jhauenschild@alec.org](mailto:jhauenschild@alec.org)  
*Counsel for Amicus Curiae*

The American Legislative Exchange Council yesterday **submitted an Amicus Brief to the Supreme Court** urging the physical presence standard be upheld, as last ruled in Quill Corp. v. North Dakota. If the Court decides to rule against the physical presence standard in the upcoming case South Dakota v. Wayfair, states will be able to reach across their borders and heavily tax main street businesses, small businesses, and entrepreneurs. The brief was authored by Counsel of Record Jonathon Hauenschild, Joel Griffith and Bartlett Cleland.

"The roughly 12,000 state and local taxing jurisdictions across our nation present a clear and present danger to interstate commerce if they would be allowed to subject out of state businesses to their tax collection rules and regulations," said Jonathan Williams, ALEC Chief Economist and Vice President of the Center for State Fiscal Reform

State Legislators, please consider signing the open legislator letter below concerning Online Sales Tax collection.

[Read Press Release](#)

[Read Letter](#)

= A  
[Legislator Voices](#)

**Investing in Infrastructure**  
Iowa Speaker Linda Upmeyer



"Perhaps the most important aspect of President Trump's plan is providing states with the flexibility and authority to identify the infrastructure projects that they need most. This will empower states and localities to invest in projects that they want, without being burdened by the Federal Government. This plan will reduce red tape and bureaucracy, allow for more innovation, keep the cost of projects below budget, and get projects done quicker."

[Read Article](#)

---

## STFS 2018

### Be a Part of the Process at Spring Task Force Summit



**Draft Model Policy is now live on the ALEC website.** Review the policies, then come join us at Spring Task Force Summit and make sure your voice is heard in the debate. Register soon, the summit takes place **April 26th, in Grand Rapids, MI.** Contact Mason Hunt with any questions about the conference.

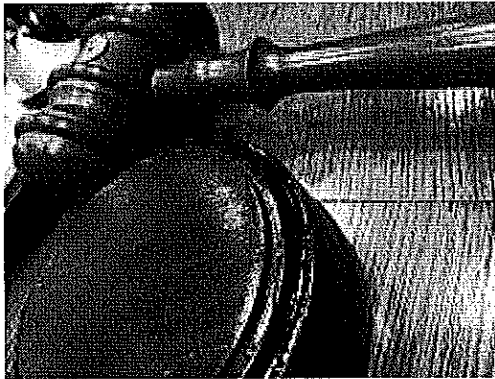
[Register Here](#)

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## Occupational Licensing Reform

### Louisiana Takes Positive Step to Remove Occupational Licensing Barriers

Ronald J. Lampard | Criminal Justice



The Pelican State is the last remaining state in the country that makes it illegal to be a florist without having a license. The fact that an individual could be prevented from merely trying to make a living as a florist to support themselves simply does not serve taxpayers well. Fortunately, Louisiana has undertaken addressing this barrier to employment opportunities.

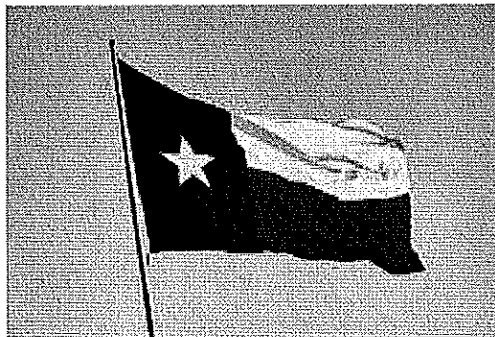
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## State of the State Analyses

### Center for State Fiscal Reform Continues State of the State Analysis

Center for State Fiscal Reform



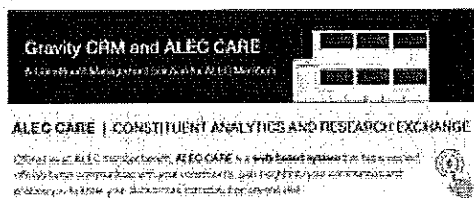
The Center for State Fiscal Reform continues its series of State of the State Analyses. The Center breaks down gubernatorial addresses, compares them to their records, and highlights both strong and weak fiscal policy in these states. New this week are **Connecticut** and **Texas**. To see all analyses to date, follow the link below.

[View Articles](#)

---

## ALEC CARE

### Constituent Relations and Management at Your Fingertips



ALEC's wealth of resources doesn't stop with model policy. As an additional benefit, we are letting all members know that we've constructed an online platform for your daily constituent management tasks. The accounts we provide are specifically designed for your district, with pre-populated constituent profiles,



allowing you to fill in notes, retain contact information, and even track issues of concern. To learn more and activate your personal account today, contact our C.A.R.E. Associate, Aaron Gillham, at [agillham@alec.org](mailto:agillham@alec.org).

---

## ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

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### Making Maryland Move

Delegate Trent Kittleman | MD-9A



This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce **Maryland Delegate Trent Kittleman**. Delegate Kittleman cares about growing business and prosperity in Maryland. She started her career writing a political column, and now serves on a number of committees dedicated to improving her state. When asked about her column, she said, "even now, I wouldn't change a word."

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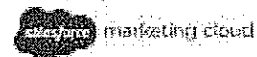
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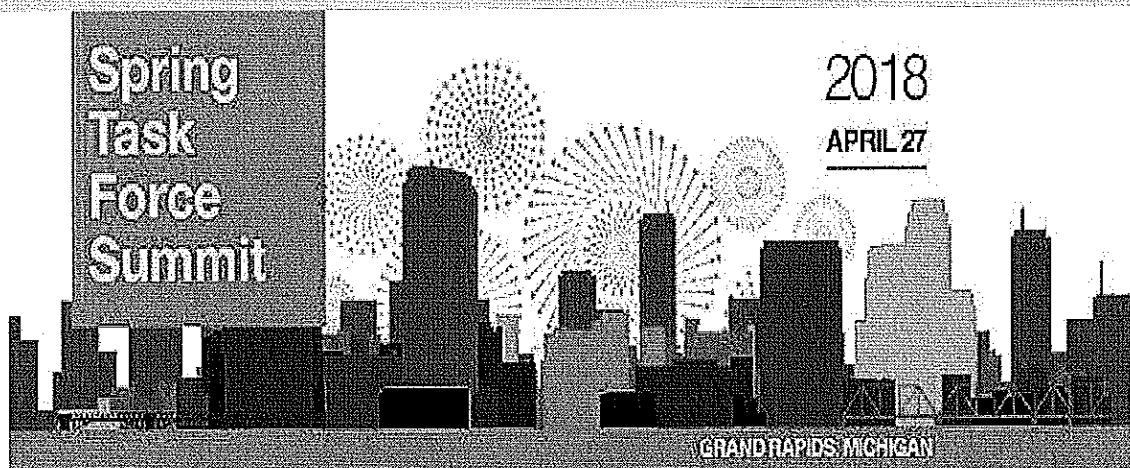
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2. Choose your registration type
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Book now through **April 6, 2018\*** at the ALEC rate of  
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*\*based on availability*

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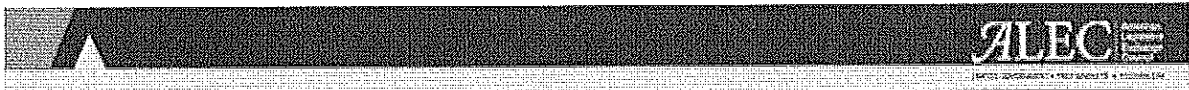
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**Events and Education: April 10, 2018**



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## ALEC in Action

### Jonathan Williams Speaking Today at Heritage on Tax Reform in Kansas

Jonathan Williams | Center for State Fiscal Reform



ALEC Chief Economist and Vice President of the Center for State Fiscal Reform **Jonathan Williams** was part of a panel at The Heritage Foundation on: *What Was Really the Matter with the Kansas Tax Plan: The Undoing of a Good Idea*. The panel took place **today, April 10th, 2018 at 12:30PM**. It will also be livestreamed on [www.heritage.org](http://www.heritage.org)

[View Event](#)

## Online Sales Tax Update

## ALEC Submits Amicus Curiae Brief on Online Sales Tax Case (South Dakota v. Wayfair)

American Legislative Exchange Council



= A

The American Legislative Exchange Council last week **submitted an Amicus Brief to the Supreme Court** urging the physical presence standard be upheld, as last ruled in *Quill Corp. v. North Dakota*. If the Court decides to rule against the physical presence standard in the upcoming case *South Dakota v. Wayfair*, states will be able to reach across their borders and **heavily tax** main street businesses, small businesses, and entrepreneurs. The brief was authored by Counsel of Record Jonathon Hauenschild (pictured), Joel Griffith and Bartlett Cleland.

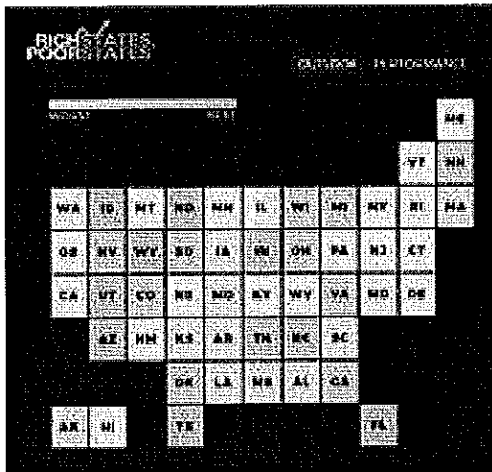
State Legislators, please consider signing the open legislator letter below concerning Online Sales Tax collection.

[Sign the Letter](#)

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Rich States Poor States 11th Edition

***Rich States, Poor States 11th Edition Legislator Call Coming Up***



The 11th edition of *Rich States, Poor States* is coming next week, on April 17. Coalition partners and legislators can get an early look at the data on a conference call with the report authors **next Monday, April 16, at 10:00 AM**. Details for the call are forthcoming, but please RSVP here if you'd like further information.

[RSVP for Call](#)

## STFS 2018

**Register Now for the Spring Task Force Summit and Become Part of the Process**



= A **Draft Model Policy is now live on the ALEC website**. Review the policies for each task force, then register to come join ALEC at the Spring Task Force Summit and make sure your voice is heard in the debate. Register soon, the summit takes place **April 26th, in Grand Rapids, MI**. Contact Mason Hunt with any questions about the conference.

In addition, this year, to improve your conference experience, ALEC is launching a new app with meeting information, agendas, bios and more. Stay tuned for the app launch in the coming weeks

[Register Here](#)





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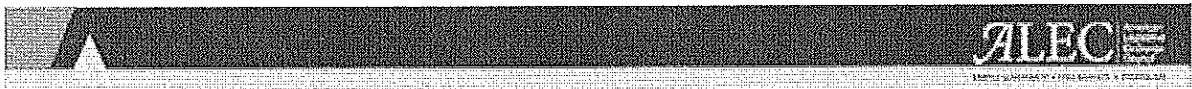


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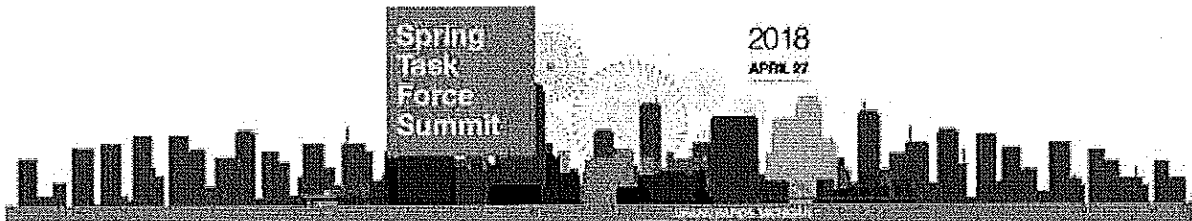
**ALEC Digital Exchange - April 12, 2018**



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**STFS 2018**

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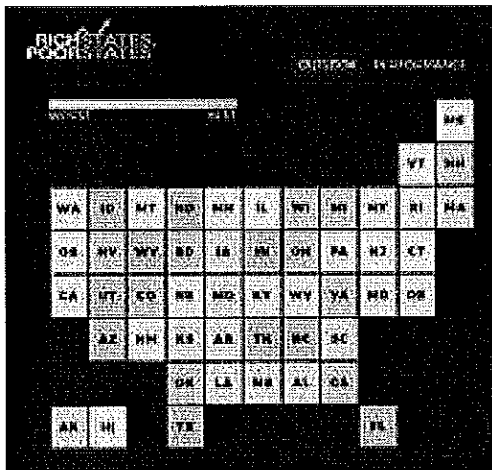
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**Register Here**

## Rich States, Poor States

### **11th Edition of *Rich States, Poor States* Coming Soon**

American Legislative Exchange Council



The 11th edition of *Rich States, Poor States* is being released next week, on Tax Day, **April 17th**. Coalition partners and legislators can get an early look at the data on a conference call with the report authors next **Monday, April 16, at 10:00 AM**. Details for the call are forthcoming, but please **RSVP with Christine Smith** if you'd like further information.

## Online Sales Tax

### **ALEC Submits Amicus Curiae Brief on Online Sales Tax Case (South Dakota v. Wayfair)**

American Legislative Exchange Council

No. 17-494

IN THE  
Supreme Court of the United States

SOUTH DAKOTA,

*Petitioner,*

v.

WAYFAIR, INC. ET AL.

*Respondent.*

On Writ of Certiorari to the  
Supreme Court of South Dakota

BRIEF AMICUS CURIAE FOR THE  
AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL  
IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDENT

JONATHAN P. HAUENSCHILD  
*Counsel of Record*  
JOEL GRIFFITH  
BARTLETT CLELAND  
AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL  
2800 Crystal Dr., Ste. 600,  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Main : (703) 373-0933  
[jhauenschild@alex.org](mailto:jhauenschild@alex.org)  
*Counsel for Amicus Curiae*

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State Legislators, please consider signing the open legislator letter below concerning Online Sales Tax collection.

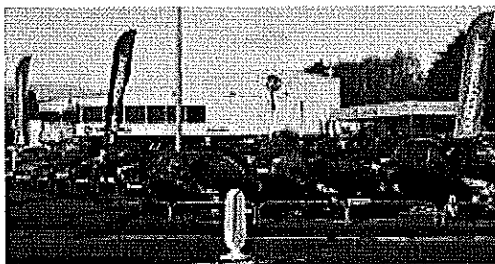
Read Letter

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## Expert Insight

### Trump Administration Revises Fuel Economy Standards Impacting the Next Car You Buy

Grant Kidwell | Energy, Environment and Agriculture



The Trump administration continued to cut regulatory red tape by announcing last Tuesday that the Environmental Protection Agency will revise greenhouse gas and corporate average fuel economy standards set by the Obama administration. The change could even impact how much you spend on buying a new car.

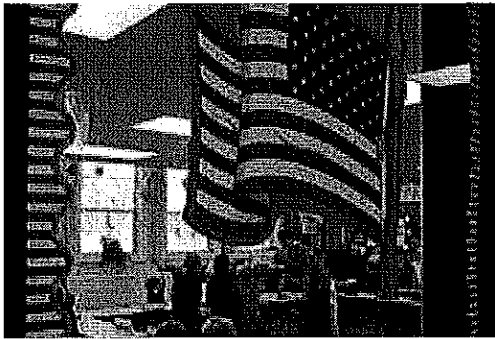
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## School Security

### Firing Blanks: Why the Current Focus on Guns in Schools Won't Solve the School Safety Debate

Inez Feltcher Stepman and Jonathon Hauenschild | American Legislative Exchange Council



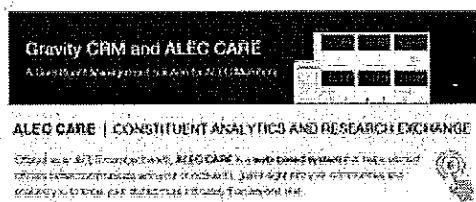
After every school shooting tragedy, the same gun debates rage in America, pitting gun control advocates against Second Amendment supporters. Instead, ALEC is considering two non-firearm related solutions we hope will gain the backing of people across the political spectrum, regardless of where they fall in the national gun debate.

[Read Article](#)

---

## ALEC CARE

### Manage Your Constituent Relations Quickly and Easily with ALEC CARE



ALEC's wealth of resources doesn't stop with model policy. As an additional benefit, we are letting all members know that we've constructed an online platform for your daily constituent management tasks. The accounts we provide are specifically designed for your district, with pre-populated constituent profiles, allowing you to fill in notes, retain contact information, and even track issues of concern. To learn more and activate your personal account today, contact our C.A.R.E. Associate, Aaron Gillham, at [agillham@alec.org](mailto:agillham@alec.org).

## ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

### Looking Out For Taxpayers in South Dakota

Representative Taffy Howard | SD-33



This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce **South Dakota State Representative Taffy Howard**. Representative Howard is a proud Air Force veteran, mother, and community leader, who believes that hard-working South Dakotans should be able to keep more of their paychecks. She also believes "The out-of-control increase in property taxes" is one of the larger issues facing her state.

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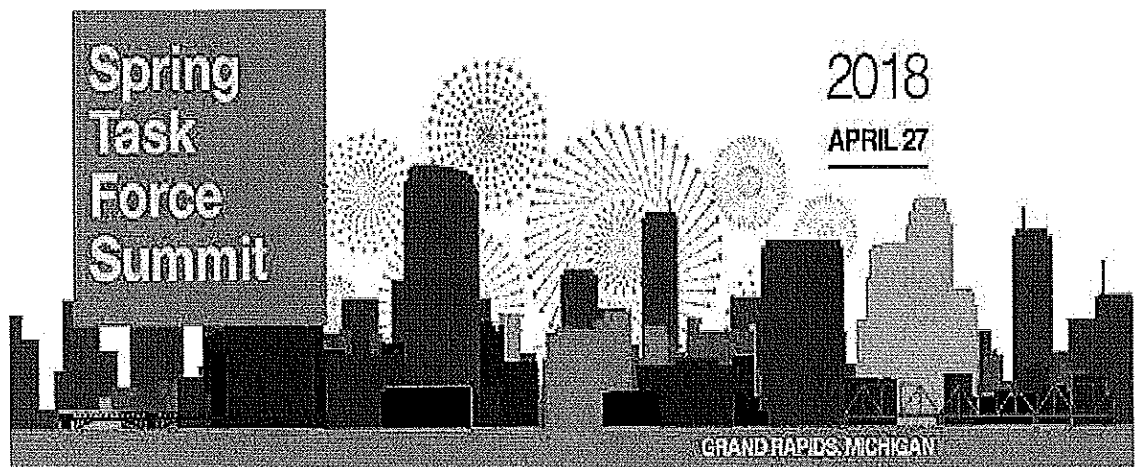
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4. Select "**Full Conference Pass**" as your admission item
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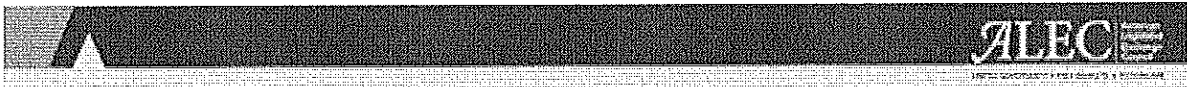
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**Subject:** Communications and Technology Update, 4/13/18

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**Communications and Technology Update:  
April 13, 2018**



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Dear Members of the Communications and Technology Task Force,

I hope you all are ready for Spring. Here in northern Virginia, we are still awaiting the return of warm weather.

With Spring either in the air, or right around the corner, that means the **Spring Task Force Summit** is all but upon us. If you missed the 30-day mailing, you can access the tentative draft agendas, policies subject to sunset review, and proposed policy [here](#). **You can also register for the meeting by clicking [here](#).**

To preview the meeting, briefly, the Task Force will be discussing a Statement of Principles for Online Speech. We will hear, both in the morning and during the task force meeting, about how technology can help secure our schools. We will also have a discussion on right-to-repair policies proposed in states and discuss the online sales tax case currently before the Supreme Court.

Speaking of that case, ALEC filed a brief, amicus curiae (friend of the court), in that case. In the brief, Joel Griffith and I argue that the Court should maintain the current physical presence standard for state sales tax obligations. You can read the press release and brief by [clicking here](#).

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out at [jhauenschild@alec.org](mailto:jhauenschild@alec.org).

Regards,

Jonathon Hauenschild

Director, Task Force on Communications & Technology

---

#### What I Am Reading

- The media often inaccurately attributes trending conservative topics on social media to efforts by 50 Russian bots." This isn't really the case, as the media misinterprets the data and inferences from the Alliance for Securing Democracy's Hamilton 68 dashboard
  - In France, innovation may be criminal. Uber executives in France will face criminal charges as a European Union court sustained France's categorization of the ride-sharing disruptor as a "transportation company" rather than a "digital company." Such a classification allows France to punish the company for violating a law criminalizing the provision of unlicensed transportation services
  - Facebook, in the midst of controversy regarding third party access to data, announced a Data Abuse Bounty program. The program will reward individuals who report apps that improperly obtain and share Facebook user data
- 

#### ALEC/FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

##### **Looking Out For Taxpayers in South Dakota**

Representative Taffy Howard | SD-33



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Representative Howard is a proud Air Force veteran, mother, and community leader, who believes that hard working South Dakotans should be able to keep more of their paychecks. She also believes "The out-of-control increase in property taxes" is one of the larger issues facing her state.

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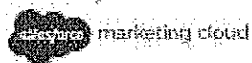


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Dear Rep. Schuring,

I trust you are doing well.

I am writing to remind you to register for the Spring Task Force Summit, which will take place on Friday, April 27th in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Join fellow legislators and engage in critical, current topics. We will have discussions on how technology can be used to help make schools more secure. We will have a policy discussion regarding online free speech. There will be a panel regarding right-to-repair policies. And we will have discussions regarding online sales tax and the South Dakota v. Wayfair case currently before the Supreme Court.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me!

Regards,

Jonathon Hauenschild, J.D.  
Director, Task Force on Communications & Technology  
American Legislative Exchange Council  
[www.alec.org](http://www.alec.org)

**From:** Jonathan Williams

**Sent:** Saturday, April 14, 2018 12:01 PM

**To:** Rep48

**Subject:** Reminder: Special Preview of the 2018 Rich States, Poor States Economic Outlook Rankings

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Dear Friends,

I am pleased to announce the upcoming release of the state rankings from the 11th edition of *Rich States, Poor States: ALEC-Laffer State Economic Competitiveness Index*. The empirically-based analysis contained within the pages of *Rich States, Poor States* demonstrates which state economic policies lead to greater opportunity and which policies hinder job growth and overall economic prosperity. Many sizeable moves within the rankings took place this year, so you won't want to miss the chance to preview how your state ranks before the rankings are released on Tax Day.

Join us for an exclusive conference call to preview the findings with economists Dr. Arthur Laffer and Stephen Moore.

In addition, [click here](#) to download the coalition toolkit and social media samples.

**WHAT:** Conference call to discuss the new 2018 *Rich States, Poor States* economic competitiveness rankings

**WHEN:** Monday, April 16 at 10:00 EST

**RSVP:** Christine Smith at [csmith@alec.org](mailto:csmith@alec.org)

I hope you will be able to join us. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to partner with us to get this information to your colleagues, members or constituents in your state.

All the best,

**Jonathan Williams**

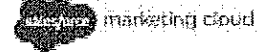
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